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ACTS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST IRAQI TARGETS EXPECTED TO ESCALATE

Beirut AL-'AMAL in Arabic 8 Aug 79 pp 1, 7

[Article: "Blowing Up of Iraqi Centers; Fear of Secret Inter-Arab War in Beirut"]

[Text] The incidents of bomb throwing on Iraqi targets in Beirut as of the beginning of the current week have aroused the fears of the eruption of a secret inter-Arab war centered in Beirut and likely to extend to some world capitals.

An explosive charge went off two nights ago in the Iraqi Airways offices in al-Rawshah. The explosion destroyed the front part of the building and shattered the glass panes in neighboring buildings.

An explosive charge had exploded last Saturday in the Iraqi Trade Center, causing slight material damage.

Diplomatic Arab circles expect more acts of violence. Guard on the Iraqi installations has been bolstered.

While certain Arab diplomatic sources have attributed the acts of violence to Iraqi communists, other sources have wondered if this is not an indication of the resumption of the bloody Iraqi-Syrian conflict in the wake of the exposure of the recent coup attempt in Iraq and of charging Syria, even Hafiz al-Asad personally, of being behind the plot. This arouses the fears of resumption of the war of assassinations and of explosives between the two quarrelling sisters.

Some diplomats say that, contrary to this, the two explosions underline the determination of the communists to answer the [Iraqi] Government that has executed and jailed a number of Iraqi communists and has almost destroyed the pro-Soviet Communist Party.

The roots of the conflict between the leaders of the Socialist Arab Ba'th Party ruling Baghdad and the communists are due to the leftist opposition to the Iraqi Government's expanding cooperation with the west.

The series of campaigns against the Iraqi communists included the execution last year of 21 communists convicted of attempting to organize secret cells in the armed forces which comprise 212,000 troops.

Since those executions, Iraq has shut down the Communist Party's paper, expelled two communist ministers from the government and arrested, according to some reports, tens of members of the Communist Party. Thousands of communists have fled Iraq and joined the Kurdish rebels who are fighting the Iraqi army in Kurdistan.

Last June, South Yemen charged Iraqi agents with the responsibility for assassinating Tawfiq Rushdi, and Iraqi communist university professor working in the Education College in the capital of South Yemen.

Several weeks later, Palestinian groups charged Iraq with the responsibility of assassinating 'Adil Wasfi, a prominent pro-communist Iraqi journalist, in Beirut. But Iraq refuted the charge.

Meanwhile, the Iraqi intelligence men are conducting secret investigations to find out who is behind the sabotage acts. These men will submit a report on the outcome to the government in Baghdad.

It has been learned that the Lebanese security agencies are in possession of information about blows that may be dealt the Iraqis in Lebanon and outside Lebanon by the Shi'ites, the Kurds, the communists or the Syrians.

An attempt had also taken place to assassinate Fawzat Hasan Nassar, the Kuwaiti consul, but was foiled when the explosive charge attached to the underside of the Kuwaiti diplomat's car was discovered before it could go off.

A military expert was summoned and he defused the charge.

8494

CSO: 4802

ALGERIA

DALILA MASCHINO ANNOUNCES MARRIAGE TO ALGERIAN

Paris LE MONDE in French 22 Aug 79 p 5

[Unattributed article]

[Text] Montreal (AFP)--Dalila Maschino announced her marriage to an Algerian teacher and denied having been abducted in Montreal in April 1978, in an interview broadcast Monday 20 August by Radio Canada. During an interview given this weekend to a journalist in a town in California, Mrs Maschino contradicted all the facts reported by the press after her disappearance.

The young Algerian stated that she was on her honeymoon in California after her remarriage to Alloua Cheniguel, a teacher of German in Algeria, and that she had left her first husband "because she no longer loved him."

Mr Maschino, whom she married in France in March 1975, brought charges of "abduction" in 1978 in Canada and implicated his brother-in-law Messaoud Zeghar, a prominent Algerian businessman, friend of President Houari Boumediene (LE MONDE, 10 June 1978).

Dalila denied having written the letter addressed to her first husband in 1978 in which she said she had been abducted, although it was authenticated by graphologists. According to Radio Canada, Dalila and Alloua Cheniguel left California Monday for Spain before returning to Algeria.

[In the statements published on 6 July 1978 by the Lausanne newspaper 24 HEURES, Mrs Maschino had already stated that she had left Canada willingly and denied that she had been abducted (LE MONDE, 8 July 1978).

"The Maschino Affair," the importance of which Algiers has constantly tried to minimize, had sometimes occasioned very lively debates on women's rights in Algeria and generally in all Islamic-religion countries.]

11937

CSO: 4400

FUTURE OF SINAI RESOURCES DISCUSSED

Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 5 Aug 79 pp 4,8

[Article by Mustafa Bilal: "President Receives report on Sinai from Specialized National Councils"]

[Text] With the approach of peace, a new chapter in the national life of Sinai begins. But there remain several questions requiring clear-cut answers:

What are the mineral and petroleum prospects in Sinai? Where are the oil fields and mines located? What prospects do the scientists see for the natural and agricultural resources and the availability of water for irrigation and arable lands? What are the future needs of Sinai in terms of land, sea and air means of transportation and communications? How will the general framework of the educational planning for the population of Sinai be?

Answers to these questions came in the most recent scientific study submitted to President Anwar Muhammad Sadat by Dr 'Abd al-Qadir Hatim, the general supervisor of the Specialized National Councils. The report was entitled: "Sinai and Development Plans Until the Year 2000."

Cohesion Between Education and Environment

The report began with a discussion of the general framework of educational planning for Sinai. What did it suggest?

The study stressed that the return of Sinai to Egyptian sovereignty allowed the opportunity to begin the application of a new educational system stemming from and cohesive with the characteristics of the environment and responding to its needs in the economic, agricultural, industrial, mining and petroleum fields. One of the basic ingredients of the features of public education should be the functional use of the cultural and social heritage in Sinai and the adoption of the comprehensive school system which offers all kinds of educational courses. In this way, a link can be established between the various kinds of educational programs and the training

centers. These school complexes should adopt the full-day system. The school building should be used for all the purposes that serve society, such as training centers, combatting illiteracy and adult education. The system should adopt coeducation for male and female, a suitable arrangement for the densely populated areas. In addition to the school complexes which will offer the necessary training for skilled workers, the agricultural, industrial, mining and petroleum centers should also become training centers. The geographic location of Sinai merits special attention to programs related to the modern languages prevailing in the region. The location imposes the necessity of contacts with those countries lying on the shores of the Mediterranean and the Red seas.

As for university education, the Canal University should function as the parent of higher education institutes for the Sinai Peninsula. The Canal University consists of seven colleges, two in Port Said, three in Ismailia, one in Suez and one shared by the governorates of the Qina and Suez. In the future, it will be necessary to move some of these colleges to Sinai and to establish industrial higher institutes and colleges to meet the needs and suit the circumstances of the environment. For this purpose, the Sinai Research and Environment Service Center, currently attached to the college of agriculture in Ismailia, should be moved to al-'Arish to carry out the currently prepared research plan in the fields of land and pasture reclamation and the development of the animal, fish and medical plants resources. In addition, a branch for the petroleum college in Suez should be established in the city of al-Tur and another branch in the heart of Sinai. The first branch will specialize in petroleum research and studies and the second will specialize in mining. Meanwhile, the college of education will train the teachers necessary for the governorates in the area, especially for the students in Sinai.

Petroleum and Mining Potentials

To explore mineral ores and oil deposits in Sinai, the remote sensor project drew a new map for the Sinai Peninsula covering 64,000 square kilometers. For this purpose, the project made use of the space photos sent back to earth by satellite. The map showed the structure of the regional distribution of oil, mineral and building and construction materials potentials in Sinai. The Suez Gulf ridge area was considered as enjoying the greatest potential of possessing oil. The oilfields of al-Bilalyim al-Bariya and Abu Rudeis are located in this area. To the north where the oilfields of Sudr, Asl and Matarma lie, the potential is less. The area where the discovery of natural gas and oil is expected lies even further north along the shores of the Mediterranean. South of this area lies al-Fawaliq which appears for the first time on the map of Sinai. Further south lies an area considered to be third in importance among the areas having oil and mineral potentials. Manganese and iron deposits exist in the central West part of Sinai in the Umm Bugma locality. The map also shows some layers of iron ore in northern Sinai. Iron and manganese are mixed in the rocks of southern Sinai. Copper deposits exist in the west central part of the Sinai Peninsula in the areas

of Wadi Nasib, and Sarabit al-Khadim. They also exist in the west central and southern parts in the crimson granite cracks and flint veins. Samples extracted from the Abi Shor and Abi Hamat areas gave the highest percentage of copper. Uranium, thorium and rare minerals exist in the northwestern part of Sinai. Coal was discovered in Jabal Maghareh and it can also be explored in other areas. The most appropriate place for the discovery of rock salt deposits is the coastal strip of land in northern Sinai. Coal and carbonic compounds were proved to exist in Bid'ah and Nora localities in the west central part of Sinai. Reserves were estimated at about 75 million tons of coal and carbonic compounds, including 15 million tons of guaranteed ore deposits and 60 million tons of possible ore deposits.

The Specialized National Councils report says that studies tend to enhance the possibilities of the existence of oil and natural gas in two localities in the southern triangle part of northern Sinai, aside from the oilfields of Sudr, Asl, Abu Rudeis, Matarma and the land and sea Bilaiyim. At present, oil and natural gas are explored in an area lying east of Port Said and extending to the Suez Gulf along the Suez Canal. In 1977, natural gas was discovered in an area 45 miles to the west of Rafah and oil was discovered 19 miles to the east of al-Tur under the waters of the Suez Gulf.

Future of Transportation in Sinai

Dr Hatim's report to President Sadat also discussed the future of the means of transportation in Sinai. The report stressed that development of transportation could be achieved through various stages of repairing and improving the means of transportation existing before 1967 and study of the required transportation projects on the basis of the various development studies and the new needs, together with the development of the current means of transportation.

Before 1967, there were two railroad lines in Sinai: the Qantara-'Arish-Rafah-Gaza railway. The 220-kilometer railway ran parallel to the sea coast. The second was the Qantara-Shat 91-kilometer railway extending along the eastern side of the Suez Canal.

There was also in Sinai a network of roads, including 1,585 kilometers of asphalted roads and 111 kilometers of earth surface roads. The most important of these roads were: al-Vardan-Qantara-East-al-'Arish-Rafah a 6 meter wide and 332 kilometer long asphalted road; the Ismailia-Abu 'Augiala road, a 200-kilometer and 6-meter wide asphalted road; al-Qantara East-al-Shat-Abu Zenima-al-Tur-Ras Nasrani road, 541 kilometers long including 431 kilometers of asphalted road and 111 kilometers of earth surface road. There were no ports in Sinai with the exception of al-Tur where there was a dock where the ships carrying pilgrims used to anchor. All the airports in Sinai were exclusively military airports. However, there were some small air strips in the oil-production areas along the Suez Gulf and in the St Catherine Monastery area.

Transportation Projects

To meet the future needs of Sinai in the field of transportation, the following projects should be undertaken: A railway network should be established: a 200 kilometer railroad line in the northern sector, another 200 kilometer railroad line in the central sector, a third 3,000 kilometer railroad line in the southern sector and a fourth 100 kilometer railroad line to the east of the canal extending from north to south and linking the three other railroad lines together. Construction costs of these four lines are estimated at 160 million Egyptian pounds, including 50 million pounds in foreign currencies. Their courses should be determined in accordance with the actual needs and the development projects in Sinai.

Agricultural Resources in Sinai

The report divided Sinai into seven provinces:

Wadi al-'Arish Basin Province: It occupies an area of about 22,000 square kilometers. Its average rainfall in 100 mm annually. It lies outside the borders of eastern Sinai in the Negev desert. The coastal strip between al-'Arish and Rafah enjoys a rainfall average of 250 mm. Its sandy rocks contain a great amount of underground water at various depths.

Wadi al-'Arish is considered an excellent agricultural center because it contains spacious areas of fruit tree orchards, vegetable gardens and palm tree groves. Agriculture can be developed by improving production and directing farming toward economic production through linking it with agricultural industrialization and by using the kernels of palms, olives and dates as animal feed.

Wadi al-Jarafi Basin Province: It occupies an area of 2,000 square kilometers in the eastern part of central Sinai. It slopes from west to east extending beyond the borders of Sinai to the Negev Desert in the direction of the Dead Sea. It enjoys a rainfall average of less than 100 mm annually.

Water Basins Province: It lies on the eastern side of the Suez Gulf extending north to south and occupying an area of 14,000 square meters. It is about 250 kilometers long. It slopes from east to west. Rainfall average is less than 100 mm. Its underground water is of low quality because of its high salinity. It receives about 187,500 million cubic meters of rain water. The amount of running rain water that can be exploited is estimated at 9.5 million cubic meters. Its area amounts to 14,500 square kilometers. About 500 square kilometers of this area is arable land.

Basins Province to the East of the Bitter Lakes: It occupies an area of 3,000 square kilometers. It is bordered from the east by the Umm Khashab Plateau and from the west by the slopes of the Bitter Lakes and the Suez Canal. Its surface slopes from east to west at a rate reaching 8 percent. Its rainfall average is less than 100 cm annually.

Al-Manzala Lake Eastern Side Province: It occupies an area of about 2,000 square kilometers and forms part of the eastern outskirts of the Nile delta. It is full of precipitates from the delta and the lake. Precipitates from the Mediterranean are found in the northern part of this province. Its underground water is limited and can be found only in the sand dunes.

Al-Bardawil Southern Side Province: It occupies an area of 6,000 square kilometers and extends from the northern slopes of al-Maghareh and Rasan 'Anaiza mountains chains to the Mediterranean coast at the Bardawil Lake. Its rainfall average is about 100 mm. The further south one goes, rainfall decreases. Use of underground water is limited.

West of the al-'Aqaba Gulf Water Basins Province: It occupies an area of about 12,000 square kilometers. It receives about 225 million cubic meters of rain water annually.

The report recommended the establishment of a specialized general center to collect all the old and new studies on Sinai to be the foundation on which the future development of Sinai would be built. It also recommended the completion of the studies relating to underground water, fish resources and lands. Another recommendation called for drawing up a plan to supply the proposed expansion areas in Sinai with surface water for irrigation from the water of the Nile, drawing up a plan for horizontal agricultural expansion, east of the Suez Canal, and applying agricultural patterns and techniques that will be suitable for farming in the desert areas.

6800

CSO: 4802

EGYPT

EGYPT SAID IN FAVOR OF RESTORING ARAB STRENGTH, SOLIDARITY

Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 17 Aug 79 pp 6-9

[Article by Sabri Abu-al-Majd: "How and When Will Arab Restore Their Strength and Their Solidarity?"]

[Text] Absolutely nobody can deny that the Arabs, all the Arabs, lost dreadfully a large, important and serious part of their strength on the morrow of that serious split in their ranks.

Absolutely nobody can claim that any Arab, or any Arab state, has benefited directly or indirectly from that split which afflicted the Arab ranks.

The ultimate consensus is that the only beneficiary from that split which has afflicted the Arabs is Israel, and Israel alone.

Until it evacuates every inch of the occupied Arab lands and until it responds to the will of the Palestinian people to set up their free and independent state on their land, Israel will continue to be the enemy of the Arabs, all the Arabs without exception. An enemy delights and rests, even rejoices and feels reassured, when he sees his enemies divided, scattered and fighting each other.

What we have noticed since division began to crawl into the single Arab body and since the start of the boycott and estrangement war that some Arab regimes have launched against Egypt and the Egyptian people is that serious propaganda plots are being hatched against the Arab people in Egypt and against their Arab brothers in every part of the Arab land from the ocean to the Gulf.

One of the examples of these plots is the attempt to accuse the Arab people of Egypt that they are alone in the field, isolated from the others and indubitably doomed to surrender and capitulation.

There is also the attempt to delude the Arab people in every part of the Arab land into believing that the leaders of the new Baghdad Pact are always superior, that they are the source of all strength and all impregnability, that they alone are able to order a thing to be and it comes into being and that they alone are able to control the course of the Arab affairs concerning the Arab people to the degree that any of them can order this or that regime to fall and it falls, and swiftly.

The "depravation" of these plotters against the Arab people in Egypt and against the Arab people in the Arab homeland has reached the degree of their dooming "the Egyptian regime to collapse." Some of them have even set a date beyond which the "Egyptian regime" cannot survive. The Egyptian regime can never survive, as numerous Arab politicians have stated and numerous Arab journalists and writers have written, to celebrate the 27th anniversary of the 23 July 1952 revolution because this regime will have departed weeks, or even months, before then!

Another form of these plots that have been hatched against the Arab people as a whole is the exaggeration with which the leaders of the so-called rejectionist regimes view every issue, even if it deals with the simplest matters, and their considering every issue as the most dangerous thing to the future of the Arab people in Egypt.

For long months, the Arab press has talked about nothing but suspending Egypt's membership in this conference or that organization. This press has been talking, as we have already mentioned, about this suspension as if it were talking about the entry of the Arab forces into Tel Aviv triumphantly!

The "monstrosity" of these plotters has reached a degree that has made them suspend Egypt's membership in organizations of which Egypt is not a member in the first place and suspend Egypt's membership in any organization even before the officials of that organization meet. Our Arab people have begun to laugh at this suspending operation and all our good Arab people have begun to exchange the joke about the presence of a "suspender" crisis in the Arab homeland as a result of the frequent suspending of Egypt's membership.

The Arab information media have gone too far in the reports and the comments they have carried on or about Egypt. These media have been more like the press of the snakes or the broadcasting station of a factory of trivialities and lies. They have only published and broadcasted false reports and comments and they have resorted to all that is stupefying in their talk to the Arab people in all parts of the Arab homeland about boycotting and estranging Egypt.

When the information of any country is afflicted by such a degree of blindness through which it can see nothing and with such a degree of fact alteration whereby the white becomes black and the black, white, then such a country is truly on its way to rapid collapse. Political collapse and moral collapse before the political collapse.

The result has been that the masses of the Arab people in many of the Arab countries ruled by iron and fire and whose press and media are well-known for their lies and deception--these masses have begun to wonder slyly: You have said that you completely destroyed the Egyptian regime which will not last in power for more than several weeks and it seems that you have destroyed yourselves because your regimes are the ones that are collapsing whereas the Egyptian regime is growing firmer and stronger.

The result has been that these regimes have lost their peoples' confidence in them. Moreover, Egypt has won the political man in the street in these countries that are ruled by these lackey regimes.

Even though the Arab people in many of the Arab countries have begun to disperse from around the regimes that are ruling them with iron and fire, even though the Arab people in Egypt have rallied behind their regime in a unique and unprecedented manner that has made this regime the strongest popular regime in the entire Middle East, even though yesterday's allies have become today's enemies, clashing and fighting each other and laying snares for one another--some of yesterday's allies in the new Baghdad Pact even declared open war on each other before the ink of their political unity had dried--I say that despite all these divisions that have emerged in the Arab homeland in the wake of the new Baghdad Pact, despite the tension between Morocco and Algeria and between Morocco and Mauritania, despite that ugly secret war between Somalia and al-Qadhdhafi's Libya, despite the serious splits among the Palestinian resistance organizations and their mutual attempts to liquidate one another, despite al-Sa'iqah's attempt to dominate the [PLO] organization and Fatah's attempt to exploit the opportunity of Zuhayr Muhsin's assassination to regain its control over the organization, despite the bloody conflict between some Palestinian organizations and the regimes in Syria and Iraq and despite the perpetration of inhuman and unprecedented massacres inside Syria and inside Iraq among the Ba'thists themselves and the Ba'thists on one hand and the rest of the members of the Arab people in Syria and in Iraq on the other hand, I say that despite all them--which proves decisively that Egypt was right when it took toward all these slogan-raising leaders who think only with their throats, who do nothing and who are hurt to see others work that principled and sound position that made it proceed on the path of peace, paying no attention to the barking of hunting dogs here and there;

I say that even though all that has happened in the Arab homeland in recent weeks confirms the soundness of the Egyptian viewpoint of the regimes and the persons who, unfortunately, rule and control the destiny of large parts of the Arab nation;

I say that even though Egypt is getting stronger and more confident day after day now that it has come to rely on itself and that it has dropped from its calculations any aid reaching it from the Arab homeland, some of whose leaders have declared the boycott and the estrangement; even though Egypt has proven to the entire world that it is capable of isolating others and that absolutely nobody is capable of isolating it--Egypt's foes and enemies who are very rich and who have many broadcasting stations and numerous yellow, blue and red newspapers are nothing but paper tigers that collapse and crumble at the slightest wave of popular anger raising its voice with chants against them or when any treachery is exposed among their ranks--even though the current situation is in the interest of Egypt and against many of the lackey Arab regimes, Egypt is not at all pleased with weakening the Arab countries, even those countries that are ruled by regimes hostile to Egypt. Despite all this, Egypt finds no justification whatsoever for the continued division of the Arab ranks. Despite all the obscenities uttered against it and despite all the lies unjustly leveled against it, Egypt has no objection to participating in restoring matters to normalcy among the Arab states now that it has become obvious to it that all the Arab states are getting weaker by the day and by the hour as a result of this big and serious split that is about to destroy the Arab edifice.

What is indubitable is that any fair Arab or non-Arab commentator cannot but admit that if the Arabs have been hurt by their division, then Egypt has also been hurt at the same time. If anybody says that the Arab people in Egypt or the Arab people in all parts of the Arab homeland have not been affected by the division that has erupted within their ranks nobody will believe him and such a statement will be the biggest insult to the Arab people themselves. How can closely-knit people united by a common struggle, common values, a common language and a common destiny not be affected when they split into several peoples and when the Arab line binding these people splits into several lines!

I, the Egyptian and the Arab, can find nothing to prevent me from saying that Egypt has been hurt by the boycott and the estrangement imposed on it by some Arab regimes. But I say that the moral damage has been much more important and serious than the material damage. The obstruction of economic projects carried out jointly by Egyptians and Arabs can never affect the future of a great and genuine people like the Arab people in Egypt. Many were the projects hampered by our atrocious defeat of 5 June 1967 but this hindrance has not affected the structure of our national economy. Egypt could, for example, cancel the contracts for the joint economic projects towards which some Arab circles have not fulfilled their commitments and could replace the Arab capital invested in these projects--capital which has somewhat been affected by the Arab boycott and estrangement--by foreign capital. But Egypt knows well that the effects of this boycott and estrangement will end after two, three or four months at the most. Egypt also knows well that all the heroic oneupmanship campaigns aimed against Egypt since March 1979 will

turn into storms in teacups after December 1979. This is why Egypt has let everything take its normal course as if there has been no boycott and no estrangement, thus giving the opportunity to the Arab capital participating in some joint economic projects to regain its senses and to realize its interests.

The moral impact of the Arab boycott and estrangement imposed on the people of Egypt by some Arab regimes is much stronger than the material impact. Suspension of the Saudi or Kuwaiti aid, for example, is accepted by the people of Egypt indifferently. But the people of Egypt cannot accept a stance by the Saudi government prohibiting some Saudis married to Egyptian women from spending the summer in Cairo with the families of their wives! We will not dwell on this issue because we do not want to reopen the wounds and because we want to say a selfless and sincere word to get our Arab people over the crisis threatening their destiny as a result of the division afflicting the Arab ranks. Moreover, we do not want to discuss the tragedies that have befallen the Arab countries because of the severe Arab division and because of the collapse of Arab solidarity. At the same time, we do not want to talk about the dangers engulfing the Arab homeland as a result of the weakness of the Arabs in the face of their enemies and foes. These are matters that harm us more than they harm others.

All that we want to say sincerely and faithfully is that weakness has begun to crawl into all the Arab people from the ocean to the Gulf as a result of the crack with which their big edifice was afflicted at the end of last March. Every loyal Arab who is aware of the dangers threatening the Arab people and obstructing their march must put in front of his heart and his mind a picture of the Arab homeland during the 1973 war and another picture of the Arab homeland in August 1979 and he will realize that there is a big difference between the two pictures. He will also become fully aware that if the Arabs persist in their division and their split, then their present and their future will be indubitably exposed to unprecedented dangers to which they may have never been exposed before.

The time has truly come for the Arabs to pay attention to their serious position and to the benefits that their enemies reap as a result of their disunited and divided ranks.

The time has truly come for the Arabs, to take an objective pause with themselves in which to discuss the balance of their profits and their losses and of their enemy's, Israel's, profits and losses in the past 30 years.

The time has truly come for the Arabs to examine themselves so that they may determine practically their position toward the Arab-Israeli conflict: Is war in their interest? Can they score a decisive victory or not in such a war? Why shouldn't they approve lasting and comprehensive peace if this peace realizes their aspirations?

The time has also truly come for the Arab leaders to re-examine themselves in regard to their boycott against and estrangement of Egypt. What have they gained from this boycott and what has Egypt lost because of it? When they reconsider their position on this point and when they realize that despite the millions that the rich among them have spent they have won to their side only 10 persons of the 42 million Egyptians, including professional politicians 'Abd-al-Majid Farid and Sa'd al'Shazili and eight journalists and writers, of whom three are in Baghdad, three in London, one in Paris and another in Libya, and after a final review of the profit and loss account pertaining to the boycott and estrangement of Egypt--after doing all this, they must know well that their disagreement with Egypt weakens them more than it weakens Egypt and isolates them more than they isolate Egypt.

But how and when will the Arabs restore their strength and their solidarity? As for the how, the discussion may take long and may require another article. But the gist of the answer of this question is summed up in the need to put an immediate end to the propaganda campaigns exchanged by Egypt and its sisters, in the need for the Arab leaders to back down on all the measures that they have taken against Egypt and that have been proven to be more superficial than practical! President Numayri is resuming his previous mission of uniting the Arab ranks. On the basis of this sacred mission, the Arab rulers who have not been carried away by the heat of the political disagreements, such as the ruler of Qatar, the ruler of the UAE, the President of Tunisia, the President of the Republic of Somalia, the President of Djibouti and others, must participate with Ja'far Numayri to make his mission successful.

Yasir 'Arafat can play a serious role in realizing this Arab hope if he imposes unity on the Palestinian factions, if he keeps the Palestinian issue away from being a sphere for political oneupmanship and if he, at the same time, severs all the organizational connections that tie the Palestinian struggle to some Arab countries, such as Iraq and Syria, or if he prevents these countries' organizations from taking part in gearing the Palestinian struggle toward partisan and regional directions. The issue of Palestine should remain the issue of all the Arabs and should rise above all the regional and partisan Arab issues.

There remains the answer to the second part of the question we have asked, namely: When will the Arabs regain their strength and their solidarity? The answer to this question also requires more than one article. But I will say quickly and briefly that the coming month of December is the most suitable time for the Arab leaders to begin regaining their strength and their solidarity.

There is more to this discussion, if goodwill prevails.

8494

CSO: 4802

SADAT URGED TO DEAL WITH DOMESTIC PROBLEMS

Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 29 Jul 79 p 5

[Article by Dr 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-'Awadi, associate professor of criminal law in Cairo's law school: "A New Initiative by Sadat for Egypt Is Needed"]

[Text] If the undertaking of war and peace has achieved for Egypt what it has been longing for in the special domain of regional national rights and its Arab nationalistic aims, the construction, or reconstruction within Egypt is needed in order for it to achieve growth and progress as a developed country should. This also requires a mental attitude through which Egypt can continue its construction.

There are problems, in addition to material and spiritual blocks within Egypt that essentially are not different from what Egypt has faced in the past, prior to the peace treaty. Egypt now needs true and constructive ideas to help achieve its growth and progress.

The above is addressed to President Sadat who is Egypt's kind son and the senior member of its family. Mr. President we want for Egypt a successful and true undertaking like that of the 1973 war which succeeded in fulfilling Egypt's goals--and like the 1977 successful initiative for the peace treaty which fulfilled Egypt's regional and Arab goals. Egyptian citizens ask President Sadat to undertake an initiative within Egypt, not the traditional way, nor just as an administrative revolution. We want an initiative from you that will eliminate whatever stands in Egypt's way toward progress; from confining regulations, people or things.

In anticipation of the fulfillment of the above when circumstances permit and when Egypt is free to continue working toward achieving its own goals, a few quick comments about the construction of Egypt follow.

First, and Foremost

If we could picture a standard reliable scale to measure whether we are on the right track or not, that scale would unquestionably be set on the basis

of "Egypt first and foremost." The Egyptians are concerned about their future. The problem now is how to build Egypt; it cannot be built through good wishes or good intentions, but through the right decisions and ideas.

The above does not conflict with the fact that Egypt is part of the Arab nation, as a survey of the Egyptian people has determined. Since Egypt is considered part of the Arab nation, if it improves internally, the benefits are to the advantage of the Arab nation as a whole.

Egypt's Strength Is for the Arabs as a Whole

Building and strengthening Egypt means building and strengthening the Arab nation. When Egypt becomes strong, it acts as a protective shield for the whole [Arab] nation. Every building erected in Egypt and any progress is made toward this end. Egypt's strength will be utilized to serve the Arab cause and not to fight Arabs. For example, if Egypt is strong it will prevent Iran from taking over Bahrain which is part of the Arab nation. Building Egypt at this present stage is, in other words, building part of the Arab nation with special characteristics and specifications that directly and immediately help achieve progress in the whole Arab nation.

Internal Principles and Programs

It is necessary to consider the slogan "Egypt First" as the pivot around which all principles and programs revolve. These principles and programs should be a true expression of that slogan.

Egypt is known for being able successfully to translate pivotal ideas into action. An example is the idea that "No voice is louder than that of the battle's," which was translated into action and implemented within all aspects of Egyptian life. The new idea "Egypt First" should now be implemented. The following comments are made as a starting point to our future expectations:

1. How could Egypt think of redeveloping and reconstructing itself while its special construction army is abroad? Would anyone have expected Egypt to fight last October while its army was working outside its borders?

If it were impossible for Egypt to fight, then the question arises as to whether its construction would be feasible while its construction army is outside its borders. Why isn't there control on loans [of Egypt's construction crew] to other countries to help achieve the goal "Egypt First" by prioritizing these loans for reconstruction within Egypt?

2. How could Egypt be constructed when its arable land is supposedly owned by public organizations such as agricultural reform and endowment organizations? The responsible employee only needs to present a sheet of paper with a deed of endowment extending west from Alexandria to Marsa Matruh,

or he can just draw a line through arable lands on the map, making it impossible for Egyptians to utilize such lands. Neither can those organizations, with their meager resources and complex procedures, develop those lands and achieve the needed benefits.

Crop Rotation

Why can't there be laws that allow the Egyptians to become landowners, with the provision that there would be no new exploitation or feudal system where, for example, one person controls 1000 acres while another person watches in pain? Crop rotation could be enforced as a condition for using these lands provided no cheating occurs. Also, there could be some rules controlling competition for land.

3. How can Egypt be constructed after quite a few communists penetrated its government forces, whose motto is despair: if you ask them about the water of the Nile they'd say it was salty; if you ask them about the land of the Nile they'd say it was dry and unproductive; and if you ask them about the future they'd say it looks dim with no hope or benefit expected of Egypt or its people. These communists live on the Nile's banks and drive luxury cars. Before the October war, they said that Egypt was too weak to fight and would lose if it did fight. After the war and victory, they said Egypt was defeated. When peace was announced, they said that Egypt had lost its great October victory. When the peace treaty was signed with Israel, they said it would not be executed. After the treaty was executed and Egypt was given al-'Arish district, they said Egypt will not be able to rebuild itself.

In closing, we can say that Egypt will rebuild itself with the help of its people, its Nile and its soil. Its people will rebuild it to what it used to be, strong and mighty.

Egypt will be rebuilt and will regain its glory, which is the glory of all the Arabs. This will be realized when the water of the great Nile irrigates all of Egypt's land, and when the Nile water and Egypt's soil are mixed with its people's sweat.

9455

CSO: 4802

MEANS TO INCREASE PRIVATE, PUBLIC SAVINGS PROJECTED

Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-IQTISADI in Arabic 15 Aug 79 pp 11-12

[Article by Jamal Zayidah: "Development of Savings or Development Without Savings?"]

[Text] National savings play a major role in realizing economic growth. It is axiomatic that no state can achieve big thrusts in the development process without relying on its intrinsic resources. Absolute reliance on foreign resources in the form of loans and aid will not lead to realizing the required development rates. However, it is noticed that the Egyptian economy's ability to generate savings is in constant decline. At the end of the first five-year plan, i.e. in 1965, the rates of saving amounted to 14 percent at the average whereas what was needed was a rate ranging from 20 to 25 percent. Ten years later, the rate of saving in Egypt amounted to two percent of the national income despite the rise in income levels and at a time when the demand for the use of these savings escalated. It is also noticed that the savings yielded by the public sector companies have also been unstable. These savings rose from 644 million pounds in 1975 to 960 million pounds in 1976 and then dropped gradually, reaching 637 million pounds in 1978.

What is the reason for the poor national saving rates in Egypt and how can the present conditions be tackled so as to lead to raising the volume of our national savings?

'Abd-al-Mun'im Rushdi, chairman of the Egyptian National Bank, says:

The importance of savings emanates from the fact that they form the part that is used in development. Saving counters investment. If the savings are less than the foreign resources that we acquire from loans and aid, then we are consuming more than our local production. This is why efforts must be made to seek the means to curtail local consumption, in addition to the replacement and renewal operations and to raising the rate of investments to face the population growth.

If the national economy rises by three percent at the fixed prices, then this means that we have made no progress because the population increase will absorb this rise. If the national economy rises by an additional three percent, then this means that the national revenues will double in 25 years. This requires the realization of a six percent rate of increase in the national economy to double the income. What is needed is a rate of increase amounting to 11 percent of the national income.

We also need to realize an investment rate of 36 percent of the national income within 10 years. Realizing a 36 percent rate of investment means achieving savings of 36 percent. Under our current economic conditions, investments amounting to 36 percent of the national income cannot be realized by reliance on our local resources alone. Therefore, there is no escape from relying on foreign investments and aid, in addition to developing our local savings.

Stability of Economic Legislation

Dr Nazih Dayf, the former minister of the treasury, believes that political and economic stability plays a major role in generating national savings. Until the organizational and legislative conditions, embodied in the open-door economy laws and the method of implementing these legislations, stabilize, it is inevitable that capital and, consequently, the saver will be apprehensive of investing his monies because he does not know the actual yield he will reap. On the other hand, saving in the form of currency causes the value of the savings to decline as a result of higher inflation rates than the interest rates in effect.

Therefore, the laws regulating the work of companies must be developed so that the saver may be given incentives to put his savings in the form of shares because the saver takes into consideration the returns on the capital, the value of the capital and his ability to regain at any time a part or all of his capital. This aspect is connected with the size of the Egyptian market and with the confidence of the savers in the legislative and organizational conditions controlling the market.

Disparity Among Saving Vessels

Concerning the role of the insurance companies in raising the savings by virtue of their being one of the important saving vessels, Dr Fathi Ibrahim, chairman of the Egypt Insurance Company, says that the insurance sector plays a major role in gathering the savings that participate in financing the economic development plans. The figures demonstrate the increase in [insurance] payments and in the volume of the monies saved, considering that the volume of direct payments rose from nearly 53 million pounds in 1975 to about 703 million pounds in 1977. The volume of the monies saved by the insurance sector amounted to 144.1 million pounds by the end of 1977 compared to 113.2 million pounds at the end of 1975. The volume of the sector's invested money rose from 133.9 million pounds at the end of 1975 to 166.4 million pounds in 1977.

This underlines the importance of insurance as a significant saving vessel. A kind of parity should be established between this vessel and the other saving vessel, because there is a big difference between the tax treatment given to this sector and that given to the other saving vessels. In the banking sector, the draft bill has given this sector exemptions amounting to 25 percent of the general income tax. Insurance is considered actual saving and it must, therefore, be given some tax exemptions and must be equalized with the other saving vessels. Else, how can the insurance sector compete with the other saving vessels within the framework of these unfair conditions?

Economic Policy and Development of Savings

Fu'ad Sultan, the delegated member of the Egypt-Iran Bank, says that the importance of saving throws on the shoulders of the state the heavy duty of the need to maintain a healthy climate that permits the mobilization and growth of savings through efforts to achieve relative stability in the purchasing power of money. The state must do the following:

Provide accurate data on the outcome of the activities of the companies, make known their financial positions and guarantee the authenticity of such data in the light of a control and supervision system carried out by government authorities, especially in connection with shares presented for public subscription.

Protect savings through financial and technical state control over the financial establishments operating in the field of polarizing savings.

Raise the rate of returns from savings by raising the interest rate. Some people may say that raising the interest rate leads to adverse consequences for investment. But the answer to this is that the problem does not lie in the sphere of demand for investment but in the sphere of supply, in terms of the availability of the money needed to meet the investment requirements.

Attention must be focused on the importance of the policy of subsidizing the savings in view of their long-range effect on attracting foreign savings and treasured monies and tying these monies to the wheel of investment and production, thus leading to a higher rate of general saving and, consequently, a higher rate of real economic growth. The subsidy policy should never be evaluated by comparing the volume of the monies lost to the state in the form of tax exemptions with the volume of the additional revenues in the short run. What must be taken into consideration is the long-range impact of creating the proper investment atmosphere which ultimately leads to increased production and to higher tax revenues accompanying this productivity. Consideration must also be given to avoiding differentiation between the various saving vessels by the subsidy policy. Otherwise, such differentiation will lead to an imbalance in cash flow in society, as happened in the past when only investment bonds of all the saving vessels were exempted from taxes.

This is also the case at present, considering that only bonds in foreign currency, to the exclusion of non-governmental bonds in Egyptian pounds, are exempted. This enhances the desire to keep foreign currencies and not the Egyptian pound. This is contrary to what the economic policy seeks to achieve in terms of correcting the flaw in the balance of payments.

Fu'ad Sultan adds: In view of the fact that the volume of the private savings is much smaller than the development requirements, it has become a duty to exert efforts to develop the public savings by adopting a financial policy that seeks to realize a surplus in the general state budget that can be put at the disposal of the business sector through the investment and development banks with the aim of financing the investment activity of both the private and public sectors. This surplus can be achieved by levying new taxes and improving the level of the performance of the current taxes or by limiting the volume of the current spending.

On the other hand, efforts must be made to provide the necessary exemptions seeking to bring out treasured monies. This is contrary to what is implemented currently because the general income tax amounts presently to 80 percent of incomes exceeding 100,000 pounds annually. This causes wealthy locals and foreigners to steer away from participation in investments at a time when the revenues from this tax amount to only 2.5 million pounds--revenues that are incompatible with the obstacle they form in the face of enhancing the incentives for production and investment.

8494

CSO: 4802

CHANGES IN IMPORT PROCEDURES REVIEWED

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 31 Jul 79 pp 1, 9

[Article by Usamah Saraya: "Custom Duties on Goods Paid in Hard Currency"]

[Text] An important decree was issued by Dr Hamid al-Sayih, minister of economy and foreign trade, aiming at facilitating import procedures without currency exchange transactions on the one hand, and controlling imports relative to this rule on the other. The decree stated the following:

1. That imported goods be released, without currency exchange transactions, directly by customs without any licensing, except for banned goods that have equivalent local products. The importer must present directly to customs the documents he formerly presented to the Ministry of Commerce.
2. That the importer present to customs, among other clearance documents, proof of the exchange of hard currency at one of the four national banks equivalent to at least the value of the custom duties on the imported goods.

Since basic imports such as foodstuffs and cement are exempt from custom duties, they will not be affected by this procedure. Luxuries, which are subject to high customs and other duties will be affected by this decree as intended in order to control imports of luxury items as requested by the general public.

3. That this decree does not apply to private goods or goods imported for personal use with the exception of durable goods such as passenger vehicles and home appliances.

It has also been decided that procedures be set to facilitate importers' business.

The special procedure for the immediate exchange of the import equivalent to achieve immediate benefits for the customs office in the form of hard currency in the banks will go into effect on 1 September which gives enough time for importers to research and adjust their situations accordingly.

Why Was the Decree To Control Imports Without Currency Exchange Issued?

Dr Hamid al-Sayih, minister of economics and foreign trade and economic cooperation, issued a number of important decrees aiming first at cutting down and simplifying import procedures without the need for currency exchange, as imports represent 20 percent of our total revenues and include necessary and vital products such as cement, in addition to including luxury items. These imports are financed through the purchase of foreign currencies, either locally or from the Egyptians who work abroad, for prices higher than those announced by the Central Bank. In turn, these transactions deprive the banking establishment of large sums of foreign currencies. Many requests were made that this type of imports, especially luxuries, should be controlled.

Requests to import without currency exchange transactions were made to a special committee in the Ministry of Commerce which is currently studying such requests, acquiring approvals of the different specialized government agencies, and will later issue import licenses valid for 6 months.

These procedures led to many arguments and clashes between importers and licensing authorities. Therefore, the following has been decided: Imported goods will be released, without currency exchange transactions, directly by customs without any need for a license, except for banned imports that have equivalent local products, provided the importer presents directly to customs the documents he used to present to the Ministry of Commerce. This decision will naturally simplify procedures, get rid of unnecessary routine work and will also help avoid clashes that result regarding the renewal of licenses or the arrival of merchandise after the expiration of a license.

Husayn Ahmad Husayn, first deputy of the Ministry of Finance who supervises the foreign trade sector said that the customs authorities will directly clear imported goods according to the Unified Import Decision 1036 in Statements 3, 4, 5 and 6 related to goods that cannot be imported unless the producing company had an Egyptian commercial agent, and provided there is a service center for that company and its goods that are imported under special conditions; goods that are permitted to be imported upon the approval of the concerned parties; used goods that are allowed to be imported for trade purposes from hard currency countries where trade is not forbidden; and goods financed by special sources "without currency exchange" not requiring the approval of the Import Facilitation Committee in order to simplify procedures and facilitate the importers' business.

In order to implement import control without currency exchange, it has been decided that the importer present to customs, among the clearance documents, a document providing that he exchanged in hard currency at one of the four national banks a sum equivalent to at least the value of customs duties on the imported goods. Since basic imports such as food-stuffs and cement are originally exempt from customs duties, they would

not be affected by these procedures; while luxuries, which are subject to high customs rates and other taxes, are affected by this decree leading to proper control of luxury items as the general public has requested, for the benefit of the national economy during its current building stage.

It was also decided yesterday that procedures be set to facilitate imports, and a decision was issued to offer immediate benefits to importers. As for the special procedure for the exchange of the equivalent of custom fees in hard currency from banks, it will be effective the beginning of September, thus giving importers enough time to adjust their situations accordingly.

The decisions will not affect personal goods or goods imported for private use.

The minister's decree also included several important points: Since the Arab and Foreign Money Investment Law aims at giving the opportunity to invest foreign capital by providing all favorable conditions and suitable facilitations, we expect the post-treaty period to remove all the blocks from implementing projects. Exceptions have been made for importing needed machinery, equipment, parts and suitable transportation required to implement projects, based on Law No 43 for investment, provided the committee for follow up on the parallel market finds it acceptable per approvals and conditions set by the General Administration for Investment and Duty Free Zones.

The manifest can be adjusted under special conditions to facilitate importers' business and to solve the common problem of errors in stating the names of the shareholders and the beneficiary, which is impossible to solve within the previous text of the law which did not, under any circumstances, allow name adjustments or changes in the manifest.

Fishermen who are members of cooperative societies were permitted to clear directly through customs imported used boat engines without their being limited to a specific year's make and with no need for an import approval. This was done to relieve fishermen of the high costs of fishing boats and to encourage them to develop sea products and food security projects.

More chances to import new or used car parts for all types of transportation, provided it is imported for the cars owned by the importing party. The customs will directly clear such parts without any import approval.

Also, due to the important role transportation plays in the national economy and in order to increase its quality and to encourage the use of light transportation vehicles, it was decided to allow each Egyptian over 18 years of age to clear directly through customs a medium size truck, under special conditions, and without the need for an import approval. This facilitation also applies to the microbus to encourage tourism.

EGYPT

MINISTER OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION DISCUSSES TOURISM

Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 13 Aug 79 pp 3-9

[Interview with Jamal al-Nazir, Minister of State for Economic Cooperation, by Fatimah Ihsan; "Shortly, Red Sea Coast Will Turn into Paradise; Tourist Investments Have Provided 560 Million Pounds; Utilities Raise Price of Land on Northern Coast From 25 Piasters to 30 Pounds"]

[Text] A surprising sight is repeated frequently at Cairo Airport or Alexandria Port: Groups of tourists arriving at the airport or the port and returning to their countries on the same day! Why?

This is no riddle. It is the painful fact from which the tourist activity in Egypt, especially in the hotels sector, is suffering.

Even though the bright experience of the open-door policy has been going on for 4 years and even though this experience has been rich, it only tackled the tourism sector in 1978. Tourism has become the pampered patient of all the officials, each of whom is trying to find the cure for this patient.

[Question] What is the volume of the tourist investments and can they solve the crisis?

[Answer] (Jamal al-Nazir, the minister of state for economic cooperation and the deputy chairman of the Investment Authority, says:) Figures are the practical means to measure the degree of success that we have achieved in this sphere. The tourist activity projects topped the list of projects approved by the Investment Authority by the end of 1978. The number of these tourist projects amounted to 86 projects with a capital of 365 million pounds and with total investments of 600 million pounds, when fully completed.

The approvals given in the sphere of tourism have varied with the aim of building all types of hotels and of establishing tourist service projects. This is reflected by the demand of the investors to employ their money in the tourist activity. This demand provides the indication of their confidence in Egypt's tourist position.

Hotels occupy second place after tourist transport and restaurants. Even though hotels are tourist projects with high profitability, investors have not shown full interest in them because of the 4 or 5 years required to build a hotel.

No to Cabarets

[Question] Have the investors applied to the authority to license the establishment of night clubs?

[Answer] No, and I do not believe that the authority will approve tourist projects of this kind.

Regarding the nationalities displaying the biggest demand for the investment in Egypt, Jamal al-Nazir says:

The Arab investors are the ones who display the biggest demand for tourist investment in Egypt. They are inclined toward owning tangible things, such as a part of an office building, a housing project or a hotel. He explains their lack of interest in agricultural or industrial investment projects by the fact that they are not familiar with the complex technological aspects of such projects.

Only 35 Percent Arabs

The Arabs represent only 35 percent of the total tourist investment in Egypt. The Egyptians represent 55 percent of the remaining part and the rest is represented by other nationalities whose capital investment amounts to nearly 120 million pounds.

[Question] Why do tourist projects enjoy the same tax exemptions as other projects, agricultural projects for example, despite the big difference between the two types? The first type of projects yields vast profits, contrary to the second type.

[Answer] If we compare the profits yielded by the tourist, industrial or agricultural projects, we find that the balance is tipped in favor of the first type. But from a practical point of view, the authority considers Egypt's needs. At one time, we faced a complicated situation for which we had to find a solution, namely the tourist inflow into Egypt, which is increasing by large leaps, and the inability to accommodate this inflow with the needed tourist installations.

This is why we have to offer investors in tourism incentives that encourage them to storm this field and, consequently, to solve this difficult equation.

The government's long-range policy always gives priority to the country's needs. When these needs are met, we will refrain from allowing more.

For example, we refrain currently from giving permits for the construction of new luxury hotels in Cairo. But the investors are being encouraged to build medium-range two-star and three-star hotels. These are hotels that cost less and that can accommodate large tourist groups.

Regarding the 1978-83 five-year plan, Jamal al-Nazir says: The first hotel to be opened in 1978 was al-Salam Hotel in Heliopolis. In 1979, the Heliopolis Sheraton and the Holiday Inn on the Pyramids Road will join this hotel. In 1980, the Ramsis Hilton and the Marriot Hotel belonging to the Tourist Establishment in al-Zamalik will join the line. In 1981, the hotel being built by the Egypt-Iran Bank in al-Jazirah will come into existence and the Intercontinental Hotel in al-Jazirah area will be opened in 1982.

[Question] I asked him about the reasons for the stoppage in the northern coast projects.

[Answer] (He says) The fundamental problem of these projects is a problem of utilities. The state is required to construct water, electricity and sewerage facilities in this area. Regrettably, this has not been done so far for the lack of financial allocations. This is the reason for the stoppage.

But there are two ways to solve this problem. The first is to have the state extend these utilities and in this case the state must collect the costs of these facilities from the investors who will benefit by them. If this is done, the price of a square meter of land in the area will rise from 25 piasters to 30 pounds.

The second solution is to leave this task for companies that build the utilities completely and then divide the land [and sell it] at a price agreed upon by these companies and the government.

Fundamental Problem

But the fundamental problem which we are experiencing at the same time and which is considered a stumbling block in the path of implementing these projects on the northern coast is the problem of planning. The state has not yet completed planning this area, including plans to establish a complete community capable of achieving self-sufficiency in this area and to set up agricultural projects next to this area.

I believe that there is a team from the Ministry of Development studying the planning of this area.

[Question] Have any offers been made to the authority to set up projects in the area?

[Answer] There is only one project in the area of Sidi 'Abd-al-Rahman. But this project has faltered because the study made on it was conducted on the basis that a network of utilities in the area is ready. This is why the investor made it conditional that the government extend the utilities. When this did not happen, the project came to a halt. I hope that the network of utilities will reach the area soon because it will be the bloodline that restores life to this area.

Jamal al-Nazir, the minister of economic cooperation and the deputy chairman of the Investment Authority, says that in addition to the northern coast projects, there are other projects of which the investors have not become aware yet. International experts have given the priority of tourism in Egypt to the Red Sea coast and they attribute this priority to the fact that the area's climate is fit for tourism throughout the year.

The second reason for this priority is that the costs of extending complete utilities to the area will be very low because the distance between al-Ghardaqah and the Nile is a reasonable distance. Some big companies have in fact submitted requests to the authority asking it to notify them immediately upon completion of the utilities network in this area and upon opening roads to it so that they may invest their enormous monies in it. I believe that this area will turn in the near future into a paradise that will attract the attention of tourists from all parts of the world.

There are also excellent tourist potentials in the High Dam Lake area and I believe that this area will have large numbers of tourists in the near future, if attention is paid to it.

Thus ended the statement of one of the officials in charge of investment in Egypt. What we hope for is that the state will turn its attention to these tourist areas that thirst for a little attention so that they may offer Egypt a lot.

8494

CSO: 4802

EGYPT

MEAT, FISH PRODUCTION TO INCREASE

Cairo AKHIR SA'AH in Arabic 15 Aug 79 pp 28-29

[Article by Zaki Muhammad Zaki: "Meats for Every Mouth at Cheapest Prices"]

[Text] How can meats in Egypt be provided to every mouth and at the cheapest prices? How do we stop the importation of foreign meats and livestock to Egypt, thus saving the millions of pounds shouldered by the state treasury every year? What is the role of the Scientific Research and Technology Academy in supplying animal protein to the people through an organized scientific plan?

To start with, Dr Khalid 'Abd-al-Salam al-Shazili, the dean of the Alexandria School of Agriculture, says: The future of animal production is difficult to determine because it depends on numerous factors that can be divided into:

1. Technical aspects pertaining to the strain of livestock, to hereditary qualities, to productivity and to correct care, such as food, shelter and veterinary care.
2. Economic aspects that play a twofold role. Increase in income and prosperity lead to an increase in the consumption of animal products. Moreover, increased animal production leads to an increase in the individual's income and prosperity and, consequently, to the subsequent upward or downward change in prices, depending on the laws of supply and demand. The economic aspects are the factor determining the expansion of animal production at the expense of other crops in a country where the cultivable area is limited, as is the case in Egypt.
3. Social aspects and their impact on raising the individual's awareness of the technological aspects and their direct effect on raising the livestock productivity.

4. Political aspects: We must admit here that political decisions have their effective impact on the production operations, at times positively and at others negatively. I want to give an example of the special political decisions here:

The levying of new taxes on animal and poultry production.

Abolishing the subsidy previously given to some commodities, the most important of which is millet. This is especially important insofar as poultry production is concerned because this subsidy ranged from 47 to 53 Egyptian pounds per ton or more than 60 percent of the commodity's cost.

Importation of the poultry and animal production requirements at the collateral market prices.

All these are factors that raise the cost of production by no less than 30 to 35 percent. Consequently, they will have an effect on the profit margin and will cause small breeders to withdraw from the field of production. This is in conflict with Ministry of Agriculture's instructions for encouraging the private sector, which is also the policy recommended by the National Council [in charge] of the strategy for food security and for supplying animal protein.

Current Picture

Dr Khalis al-Shazili adds: Before we discuss the future prospects, we must determine the current state of the animal production and of the other sources of animal protein. It is clear to us that every 7.5 million heads of cattle, sheep and camels produce 286,600 tons of meat and (1,705,000) tons of dairy products and that (37,445,000) poultry birds produce 87,000 tons of meat and 46,000 tons of eggs.

An examination and an analysis of the numbers and types of livestock in the developing countries and the advanced countries show us that livestock productivity in the developing countries, including Egypt, is much lower than this productivity in the advanced countries.

Therefore, we have a wide opportunity to raise production to the level reached by the advanced countries. The reiterated statements that we should stop thinking of livestock production and be content with increasing poultry and fish production are not founded on a scientific basis. Sound logic and the obvious indications of the abovementioned analysis say that there is a wide sphere for increasing livestock production in the form of meats and dairy products while maintaining, and even reducing, the present numbers of livestock by increasing their productivity.

Population and Animal Protein

Let us cast a glance at the population numbers and the needs for animal protein foods.

In 1973, the population of Egypt was 37 million people who consumed 287,000 tons of meats, 88,000 tons of poultry, 1.5 million tons of dairy products, 100,000 tons of fish and 46,000 tons of eggs.

In the year 2000, the population of Egypt will reach 70 million expected to consume 550,000 tons of meats, 159,000 tons of poultry, 2,813,000 tons of dairy products, 190,000 tons of fish and 90,000 tons of eggs.

With sound scientific guidance, we can raise production by the year 2000 to 550,000 tons of meat, 480,000 tons of poultry, 3 million tons of dairy products, 300,000 tons of fish and 240,000 tons of eggs.

It is evident from this that to maintain the current food standard until the year 2000, production from the animal protein sources, such as meats, poultry, dairy products, fish and eggs, must be doubled.

If we examine the individual's annual share of this production, we find that it is as follows:

Eight kilograms of red meat.

Two kilograms of poultry.

Two kilograms of fish.

Forty eight kilograms of dairy products.

By re-examining production development until the year 2000, we can raise fish production to 300,000 tons instead of (the currently produced) 120,000 tons by implementing the projects proposed in the plan. These projects were not possible to realize in the past as a result of the economic pressures emanating from the wars to which the country was exposed.

Poultry production can also be developed to reach 200 million chickens by encouraging the private sector and importing the fodder needed for this production. This will be followed by an increase in egg production which will raise this production to 240,000 tons instead of 90,000 tons.

Dr Khalid al-Shazili further adds: As for livestock production, milk production can be raised from 1,000 tons to 3,000 tons per cow annually through cross breeding. Thus we can produce an excess amounting to 300,000 tons of milk [annually] by the year 2000, keeping in mind that the increase in milk production from buffalo cows will be slower than production from ordinary cows. As for meat production, if the current annual per capita meat consumption is maintained, the total meat production should rise to 550,000 tons [annually]. This can be achieved through cross breeding of livestock because the productivity of mixed breeds is higher than that of local calves.

Factors on Which Implementation Depends

Dr al-Shazili wonders: Will this be possible to achieve? In reply, he says: All this is possible. But it depends on several factors:

First, feeding:

Insofar as poultry is concerned, the targeted figure can be realized through the importation of poultry feed. This should not constitute a big obstacle if the breeders and the private sector are given a free hand in purchasing the feed components from abroad and from the pertinent service establishments.

To produce the targeted quantity of poultry meat, we need 1.2 million tons of poultry feed whereas 302,000 tons are produced presently. Despite the high poultry feed prices, supplying this feed either through importation or through the creation of a local industry will guarantee the continued breeding of poultry. We will also guarantee a reasonable margin of profit. This does not apply to ruminant animals. The ton of fodder for ruminant animals costs 66 pounds whereas it is sold to the breeders at nearly 21 Egyptian pounds. Therefore, the main problem is the problem of feed.

If we image that to maintain the current consumption, meat production will have to reach 550,000 tons by the year 2000, then this means that 11 million tons of green fodder (dried clover) will be needed. This volume is larger than our current production of both green and concentrated fodders.

The dimensions of the problem are clear in the following points:

1. The limited cultivable area.
2. The limited fodder production.
3. The low fodder price in comparison with the international prices.

Therefore, the available solutions are:

First, raising the edible land crops or using plants with high food assimilation efficiency:

In this regard, the experiments of the Ministry of Agriculture have demonstrated that these qualities are present in the elephant [al-fil] plant. A feddan of land can produce up to 120 tons of this plant, if the land is left fallow in the winter and then planted with clover. However, if the average production is calculated at about 70 tons, then the feddan can support five heads of cattle. It can be thus calculated that an area of 800,000 feddans cultivated with the elephant plant fodder is sufficient to produce the fodder necessary for all the livestock in the country. Because it is

difficult to realize this goal as a result of the planting cycle, the ministry is seeking to attain the goal of 200,000 feddans, starting this production in the government farms, the agricultural companies and in the lands of major livestock breeders. The ministry then aims to start nurseries, each with an area of 50 to 100 feddans, in every governorate so that they may act as a nucleus for spreading the cultivation of this crop in the governorates. One feddan [of nursery land] can produce enough to plant 10 feddans.

There are other plants that can be utilized, such as sugar cane which produces 48 to 50 tons per feddan. Sugar cane has been used successfully in Barbados and Mexico where production is good and amounts to nearly 50 tons per feddan. A feddan planted with sugar cane can support five large heads of cattle. This fodder requires the addition of protein that cannot be dissolved by the (Kirsch) solution.

Through experiments conducted by the Alexandria University School of Agriculture, it has also been possible to raise two types of millet crop that can be harvested over a period of 90 days while still green. The seeds for these types of millet have already ripened. But they contain 30 to 40 percent humidity. By turning them into silage, it has been possible to raise the feddan's yield to 4.5 - 6 tons of digestible fodder (clover followed by sweet millet) and to 7-9 tons (clover followed by two crops of millet).

It thus becomes obvious that it is possible to raise the yield of the area cultivated with clover by using fertilizers and by developing highly productive strains. It is also advisable to mix clover with herbal plants, such as (al-ray) because this helps to establish a food balance and to increase milk production.

Second, developing fodder in Egypt on the basis of utilizing all leftovers within the framework of the agro-industrial complexes. The Ministry of Agriculture has presented a three-phase plan: The first phase covers the economic feasibility study for developing the fodder on this basis.

The second phase calls for building an experimental plant to make use of all the agricultural and industrial leftovers available in a certain area. Upper Egypt has been chosen as a model because of the spread of the sugar industry there.

The third phase calls for completing the agro-industrial complex so that no agricultural or industrial leftover may be lost.

It is possible to build similar units in other plants, such as canneries and dehydration plants. The situation may require the importation of some components from abroad, and perhaps exporting other kinds of fodder.

Role of Scientific Research

The Scientific Research and Technology Academy has studied, according to Dr Hatim Muhammad 'Ali, director of the academy's food and agriculture program, in cooperation with the Alexandria University School of Agriculture the possibility of using agricultural leftovers in animal feeding. The results of studies on this issue are about to be completed. These results promise the possibility of using these leftovers to improve animal fodders. This inspires a large degree of optimism for solving the problem of animal fodder in Egypt in a manner that will not subject livestock to strong food changes that may directly cause a drop in production.

In regard to suckling calves, Dr Hatim Muhammad 'Ali adds, the academy, in cooperation with the Alexandria University School of Agriculture, has studied some of the ambiguous aspects in the system of raising calves weaned at an early age. Because of the high prices of buffalo milk and of the need to use this milk fresh or processed, breeders have turned away from breeding buffalo calves and have resorted to slaughtering them at the age of 40 days. This constitutes a big loss for the livestock resources. To avoid this, the situation required that this project for raising weaned calves until marketing age be carried out. The profits from this project's herd is estimated at 68,000 pounds. The profit at the level of the republic can be assessed on the basis of these profits.

Dr Hatim Muhammad 'Ali further says: In addition to this study, there is another project in cooperation with the 'Ayn Shams University School of Agriculture. This project seeks to develop locally produced milk substitutes to raise calves until the weaning age. Four substitutes have been developed so far and the cost of daily feeding per calf amounts to 14 piasters (including labor and veterinary care) compared to 40 piasters for feeding on mother's milk.

Improving Buffalo Breeding Conditions

Adopting the modern technological methods in the production process has been the issue preoccupying the attention of the specialized councils of the Scientific Research Academy recently. These councils are conducting studies to replace animals used for agricultural purposes by machines. Concerning this issue, the academy has also made it its goal to improve the reproductive qualities of the Egyptian buffalo which constitutes the backbone of the Egyptian farmer's wealth. The number of cattle and buffaloes in the republic amounts to nearly 4 million heads. Some statistics indicate that the number of sterile buffalo cows amounts to 30 percent. The benefit produced by the project to study and to deal with the causes of sterility and of low fertility among Egyptian buffaloes is embodied in the fact that success in lowering the calving age from 40 to 30 months will add 10 months to the animal's productive life.

Moreover, reducing the period between one calving and another from 17 to 13 months will increase the calving seasons by 50 percent. What is more, reducing the chances of missed calving seasons from 30 to 10 percent will increase the herd's productivity. Generally, if it becomes possible to reduce the sterility rate by only one fifth, then the yield would amount to 200,000 calves with estimated revenues of 4 million pounds annually. This project is being conducted in participation with the Cairo University School of Agriculture.

Sixty Million Pounds in Revenues From Fish Farming

In conclusion, Dr Hatim Muhammad 'Ali, the director of the Scientific Research Academy's food and agriculture program, says: In addition to the above-mentioned, the academy has adopted the method of fish farming to increase the fish resources. It has become evident that the fish volume obtained from a single unit in fish farms (one feddan) is 15 times the volume of the fish that can be obtained from the same area of the natural resources.

The Scientific Research and Technology Academy's fish farming projects are an example of how scientific research can constitute a source of investment. The total costs spent on the fish farming projects have amounted to 70,000 pounds and have resulted in farming an area of ponds and swamps with an acreage of more than 8,000 feddans. These farms have produced 8,000 tons of fish representing six percent of the republic's total fish production and have yielded revenues of nearly 3 million pounds in the past 3 years.

The academy's efforts seek to exploit areas of ponds, marshlands and fallow lands with an acreage of nearly 65,000 feddans so as to produce fish valued at 20 million pounds annually. This is in addition to developing fish farming in enclosures, dams, Qarun Lake, Maryut Lake and in rice fields. This development is expected to yield revenues amounting to 60 million pounds annually.

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CSO: 4802

BRIEFS

STATUS OF MARITIME ACADEMY--The director of the Arab Maritime Academy, Dr Gamal Mukhtar reiterated that the academy would remain in Alexandria, that no one of its Egyptian employees would be transferred to Tunisia and that they, who represent 95 percent of the total number of institution employees, are standing as one block behind Egypt's position calling for maintaining Alexandria as headquarters for the academy. Dr Mukhtar returned yesterday to Alexandria, after attending the meetings of the Training Standards Committee held at the headquarters of the Maritime Consultative Organization for Governments in London in mid July. The committee discussed a paper presented by the academy on the functional titles of the personnel working on board the commercial ships. The director of the academy said that during his visit to London, he discussed the proposed technical aid from the American Maritime Administration with officials of the Maritime Officers Training Institute in Baltimore. Another meeting is scheduled for the second half of November in Washington D.C. to take the necessary measures to implement the proposed technical assistance. [Text] [Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 31 Jul 79 p 8] 6800

AL-'ARISH WATER WELLS--The governorate of Northern Sinai began execution of its project calling for the drilling of 30 water wells in Wadi al-'Arish to supply the area with irrigation and drinking water. Already two wells have been drilled. Experiments carried out on the wells proved the suitability of their water. Major General Muhammad Hussein Shawkat, governor of Northern Sinai said that it had been decided to expedite the implementation of this project in order to use the water in development projects and for drinking. At present, al-'Arish and its suburbs get their water supplies from three main wells only: Hassonah Well: It is 25 meters deep and gives 1,565 cubic meters of water daily; Y'cub Well: It is 14 meters deep and gives 1,600 cubic meters of water daily; Bunyah Well: It is 32 meters deep and gives 1,300 cubic meters of water daily. In all, the three wells give a daily output of 6,193 cubic meters. There was a fourth well called al-Wadi al-Jadid Well. It was 30 meters deep and used to give about 3,000 cubic meters of water daily but the Israelis destroyed its pump and dumped the well itself before their withdrawal from the area. Thus, this well needs repairs to be reoperated. Meanwhile, the traffic department in the governorate completed its check of the existing motor vehicles in order to provide them

with Egyptian licenses. According to Major Nabil Muneir, 1,267 motor vehicles were registered. All were bought after 1967. The taxi service between al-'Arish and Cairo was organized. The fare per passenger is set at 1.5 Egyptian pounds. [Text] [Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 4 Aug 79 p 8] 6800

PRESS COUNCIL--The committee formed to put the final touches on the legislation making the press the fourth authority has just completed the study of the substantial amendments introduced into the press law. AKHBAR AL-YAWM was informed that the committee rejected the previous proposal for the formation of the Press Supreme Council. A responsible source in the committee said that the views expressed about the formation of the council contributed clearly to the drawing of the structure of the Press Supreme Council. The source added that the Press Supreme Council would not include the Grand Mufti of Egypt and a leading scholar from al-Azhar, as had been previously suggested. Also, it was decided not to include members of the People's Assembly in the Press Supreme Council. Such inclusion was opposed by the pressmen. AKHBAR AL-YAWM also knows that the draft of the recent amendments of the press law provide for the formation of the Press Supreme Council as follows: President of the Legislative Council; President of the Supreme Constitutional Court; Two presidents of the board of directors of the newspapers, in their official capacity; A number of journalists to be elected to the membership of the Press Supreme Council. A responsible source in the committee said that the new structure would meet the demands of the pressmen for a majority in the council. [Text] [Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 4 Aug 79 p 1] 6800

SAUDI-EGYPTIAN JOINT VENTURE--Early next week, a delegation from the Ministry of Irrigation, headed by Eng Mahmoud Abu Zeid, vice president of the High Dam Company, will leave Cairo for Saudi Arabia on a 10-day visit to sign an agreement establishing a joint Egyptian-Saudi company. The company will undertake the building of irrigation dams, drilling water wells and constructing tunnels and bridges in certain areas of Saudi Arabia. The company will utilize the Egyptian expertise, available in the High Dam Company for civil works, in the execution of the abovementioned projects. [Text] [Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 6 Aug 79 p 8] 6800

CSO: 4802

BAZARGAN OPPOSED KURDISH CAMPAIGN

Tehran EXCLUSIVE in English 2 Sep 79 p 7

[Text] Political observers believe that the Imam had asked the government to take a more severe action against the Kurdish rebels and bomb the entire village where there are Kurdish rebels in hiding. But Bazargan had been against using the army to fight the Kurds and 10 days ago, Imam proclaimed himself as the commander of the joint army staff in order to finish the Kurdistan unrest.

Exclusive sources claim that since the Kurdish rebels were more strong than what the government and the religious clergies had thought, Imam's direct orders even did not manage to crush the rebels and the number of revolutionary guards willing to fight in Kurdistan is constantly declining. Religious clergies close to the Imam have reportedly told him that if the revolutionary guards and the army troops are not able to recapture all the regions occupied by the Kurds and execute the leaders of the Kurdistan Democratic Party, Imam's influence as a holy man, capable of doing the impossible would gradually fade away and soon the name of Islam would also be damaged.

Therefore, the aides to the Imam have put pressure on him to induce the Prime Minister to take serious action in fighting with the rebels and force the army troops to recapture Kurdish towns and villages at any cost.

But Bazargan, who has been told by the army commanders that recapturing Kurdish towns would not be easy and that continuation of the confrontations between the army troops and the Kurdish rebels would merely further weaken the soldiers' morale, has decided to hand over his resignation before he gets too much involved with bloodshed that could damage his name as a man who has fought all his life for the freedom of Iran, press and the human rights.

Exclusive sources believe that if Bazargan's resignation should be turned down by the Imam, then, all the committees and the Revolution Council should fall under the control of the Prime Minister who does not believe in pressuring the people by holding summary executions.

On the other hand, Imam's close aides have persuaded him that the only way to make the people obey orders and stop plotting against Islam and Islamic revolution, to force and execution and that recent flogging of the merchants overcharging has resulted in the prevention of the prices from their upward trend. [as printed]

An exclusive report indicated meanwhile, that following the publication of a photograph in ETTELA'AT in which a number of revolutionary guards and perhaps some Palestinians were executing a number of army officers, the officers have complained to the National Front against the violation of human rights and asked the National Front to warn Bazargan that further killing of army officers would have most undesirable effects on the army and the Islamic revolution.

CSO: 4920

KURDISH WAR TO CONTINUE

Tehran EXCLUSIVE in English 3 Sep 79 pp 2-4

[Text] Despite all the efforts to involve the army in Kurdistan war, members of the outlawed Kurdistan Democratic Party seem to be still in full control of most of the important provinces in the Kurdish regions. As the Kurdish militant are gaining more self-confidence and a boost in their morale, the army offices and revolutionary guards are now realizing that the Kurds are in fact hard nuts to be cracked and their morale is being weakened. Last week, commander of the army, fighting in Kurdistan, raised a white flag to surrender to the Kurdish rebels, since he had realized that his troops would not be able to crush the Kurds and that the volume of bloodshed would be great. But, he was immediately shot down by a revolutionary guard as an example to other army troops. Later, the government announced that the commander, a colonel, was shot down by the Kurdish rebels and promoted him to the rank of general at his mourning ceremony.

Yet, many army troops are defecting to the Kurdish side or simply deserting the army. Famous Islamic religious judge, Sheikh Sadeq Khalkhali has already executed a number of army officers and NCOs in order to teach a lesson to the other army officers that disobeying army orders would only mean death. But most army officers are still reluctant to fight the Kurds since they are not certain of the stability of the present government. Army officers were quoted as having said that if the present regime should fall, then once more they would stand trial for killing their "innocent brothers" and that even if they continue to fight, their chances of survival are very slim. They have also said that they do not much believe in the Kurdish war since most Kurds are being silently supported by the masses of middle class people who really believe that the Kurds are not merely fighting for their own autonomy, rather, they are fighting to free Iran from the clergy rule. And most of the army officers and even a good many NCOs are not much happy with the trend the present regime has adopted in many different aspects of life and government.

On the other hand, government officials are trying to boost the army morale by secretly informing them that the United States is also helping the

government by selling spare parts for the army equipment and supplying them by important information about various Kurdish positions. The army officers have also been told that even certain Israeli experts are giving advice to the top governmental officials without actually being personally involved and in order to eliminate any leakage, the government has stepped up its anti-Israeli campaign. Last week, Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan severely criticised Israel for helping the deposed Shah in staging plots against the Iranian revolution. Yet, the army officers do not seem to be willing to participate in the Kurdish war and their participation is actually more of a show.

Political observers believe that the Kurds are trying to continue the war against the revolutionary guards and the army troops until the winter when heavy snow in the region and the cold weather would change the situation to their own benefit. The Kurdish rebels are familiar with the region and can resist the cold weather and limited quantities of food. In addition, they are enjoying a more favourable strategical position and shortage of supplies and fuel cannot harm them as much as it could harm the revolutionary guards and the army troops. They are presently stocking up supplies needed to last them until the end of the next winter.

Meanwhile, exclusive sources claim that pro-Marxist Fedayeen Khalq guerrilla organization and the military wing of the pro-Soviet Tudeh Party is also fighting along with the Kurdish rebels who are not merely fighting for their own autonomy, rather they claim they are fighting for the freedom of Iran from the "despotic clergy rule" demanding a free and democratic Iran.

Travellers from the Kurdish regions claim that the rebels are adequately backed by the general public who are saving food and fuel for their next strike which is expected to begin when the first cold spell is felt in the region. The Fedayeens are also buying large quantities of medical equipment and large quantities were recently found in the house of famous Fedayeen member Hemad Shaybani who is believed to be in Kurdistan.

Political observers claim that when the cold weather should prevail in the region, the army troops and revolutionary guards would not be able to make much advancement in the region despite the fact that the United States may help the government by providing fuel and new armaments needed by the army. They believe that when the Kurdish rebels continue to gain grounds in their own region, simultaneously, there might be new troubles in other parts of the country where there are minority communities which would further divide the army. On the other hand, Army's lack of success and continuation of the summary trials and executions may well lead the army to decide to remain impartial in the local crisis and leave the entire fight to the revolutionary guards who are already showing signs of defeat.

Exclusive sources believe that the revolutionary guards are not showing the same interest they showed in the beginning of the Kurdistan war since now

they have realized that the war was not as easy as they thought and that the enemy is not as weak as they were led to believe. And what is more discouraging is the fact that the revolutionary guards are no longer of the opinion that the God would help them win the war, and should there be a similar war in Gonbad, Baluchestan or Khuzestan, the revolutionary guards would think twice before rushing and pleading to be sent to the troubled regions.

CSO: 4920

TUDEH PARTY ADVOCATES 'PEACEFUL' MEANS TO SOLVE KURDISH PROBLEM

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 20 Aug 79 p 11

[Text] The secretariat of the central committee of the Tudeh Party issued a statement calling for the defense of the revolution and the guaranteeing of the rights of the Kurdish people. This statement began:

Unfortunate dangerous events have been taking place in Kurdistan, where a very complex problem exists. Of course, the Kurdish people like all the other peoples of Iran, want the great patriotic revolution to succeed. They stand shoulder to shoulder with the other combattants in the struggle to root out the influence of the American and Zionist imperialists and the supporters of the Shah's regime. The Kurdish people like all the other peoples of Iran are planning to struggle to build the Kurdish society and wish an end to national deprivation.

Ayatollah Taleqani's visit to Sanadaj, which took place when the crisis in Kurdistan was at its peak was mentioned. Most regretfully, these proper measures yielded no results. The counterrevolution has devoted all its resources toward creating this difficult problem, which has now broken out in bloodshed.

It warned the Iranian revolution against the activities of Imperialism and Zionism. According to the warning, they work not only through those agents and groups which are openly allied with them, like Salar Jaf, but may also play off Sunnis and Shi's, Kurds and Azerbaijanis and Farsis, religious fanatics and leftist groups.

Elsewhere in the statement appeared the contents of Ayatollah Taleqani's proposal for the peaceful solution of the Kurdish problem, including the formation of assemblies. The Tudeh Party believes, as it always has, that the role of the Zionist and Imperialist agents, who have sown confusion and discord in the ranks of the revolution, should be exposed and crushed.

8921

CSO: 4906

SHI'ITES TO SEEK CONVERTS IN SOVIET UNION

Tehran EXCLUSIVE in English 3 Sep 79 pp 1-2

[Excerpt] Exclusive sources believe that the Imam is set to establish a clergy government in Iran which would be similar to the early days of Islam. He is also planning to encourage the people to go back to agriculture in order to make Iran self sufficient in food production and that he had issued strict orders to the officials to get rid of all the industries which would make Iran dependent to foreign powers. However, for the time being, he is hoping to win the Kurdistan battle and once his revolutionary guards are able to use military equipment, he would gradually ensure that top ranking army officers are retired and then have a period of transition to hand over the army to his revolutionary guards.

Sources close to the Imam maintain that he would later appoint clergies to various ministries which would be formed in accordance with the Koranic laws and may even issue strict orders for the people not to leave the country in order to help him establish new banks and business centers which would have no need to foreign investment.

According to these sources, who frequently meet with the Imam in various important governmental issues, the Irano-Soviet relations would later depend on whether the Soviet Union will allow free travel of Iranian religious clergies to the Muslim republics in the Soviet Union and free promotion of Islam in that country.

As a whole, the religious Iranian clergies close to the Imam are hoping to promote Shi'ite Islam in the southern provinces in the Soviet Union where there are over 35 million Muslims. To this end, some religious clergies are even trying to learn Russian or local languages in the Muslim provinces in the Soviet Union in order to promote Islam.

In addition, the sources believe that a new radio station will be erected to promote Islam in the Soviet Union. This radio station which would be strong enough to broadcast revolutionary Islamic beliefs in the Soviet

Union may be installed on and around the Caspian Sea coast and will broadcast in the languages which would be understood by the people living in the Muslim states in the Soviet Union.

A booklet printed in Russian by the special wing of the Shi'ite Islamic propaganda organization has reportedly been completed and ready for distribution among the Muslim Russians in which they have been invited to return to Islam and join the newly established Mostazafin Party (Deprived People's Party), organized by the Imam in which even the non-Muslims throughout the world are invited to join.

CSO: 4920

LIST OF BANNED PUBLICATIONS ISSUED

Tehran ETTALA'AT in Persian 20 Aug 79 p 1

[Article: "List of Banned Publications Issued by Prosecutor of Tehran Revolutionary Court"]

{Text} The public prosecutor of the Islamic revolution issued a statement asking the revolutionary guards to prevent the publication of a number of specified newspapers and magazines. The text of the statement follows: "Revolutionary guards, it has been decided, in order to prevent instigations toward evil and the distribution of articles aimed at confusing the public mind and conspiring against the Islamic Republic, that you should close down the following publications, and report back the results: TUFAN, KHALQ, BAKHTAK, VAHDAT, CHEH BAYAD KARD, BAHUL, YOLDASH, AZERBAIJAN, ARMAN, TEHRAN, KAR, PEYKAR, MARDOM, JAVANAN, JAVAN, HAJJI BABA, OMID-E-IRAN, SEDAYE MELLIYUN, GOZARESH-E RUZ.

Anyone resisting should be arrested and turned over the revolutionary prosecutor's office.

Central Office of the Revolutionary Prosecutor, Ahmad Azari Ghomi.

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CSO: 4906

IRAN SIGNS SEPARATE AGREEMENTS WITH TURKEY, PAKISTAN

Tehran BAMDAD in Persian 13 Aug 79 p 10

[Text] Dr. Morteza Mohedizadeh, chairman of the board and managing director of the Iranian Government Trading Corporation, announced yesterday that the corporation would import basic commodities that were not produced in sufficient quantities in the country. These are: wheat, rice, sugar, oil, and as necessary iron and cement. Mohedizadeh said that recently Australians had been in touch with the responsible economic officials in regard to selling wheat to Iran. Australia produces 17 million tons of wheat annually. He added that the first priority is to break the monopoly by America of wheat sales to Iran. We plan to import the country's needs from Islamic countries. In this connection, an agreement with Turkey is in process of signature. On the basis of this agreement Iran will import 50,000 tons of wheat at 223 dollars a ton. This wheat will come in by railroad. The director said that we are short 1.2 million tons of wheat a year which we could supply ourselves if farmers were to try harder. He then described the rice situation and its import. He said that in previous governments rice was imported both by private dealers and by the government, but because of difficulties caused by private import the Ministry of Commerce will not issue import licenses to private parties. The government will import 400 thousand tons from abroad, principally from America, and this will be put into the hands of the people through cooperatives and urban and rural stores. The government is also negotiating with Pakistan to import more rice to fill the country's needs.

Vegetable Oil

Mohedizadeh said in regard to vegetable oil that, as announced by the Ministry of Commerce, the country loses 12 billion rials annually on vegetable oil. Recently, a group of oil dealers have bought oil and sold it in Arab markets for exorbitant prices, even 130 rials a kilo, which they collected in dollars and then sell the dollars on the black market for huge profits which they pocketed. As a result, government efforts to help the people have come to nothing. The government annually imports between 35 and 40 thousand tons of vegetable oil and 80,000 tons is produced domestically.

Consumption of Sugar

The director discussed the price of sugar and said that we import about a third of the country's requirements. Recently, the sugar producing countries have formed an association like OPEC to raise the price continually. For example, during the past two months the price of sugar has gone from 250 to 280 dollars a ton. We formerly imported block sugar, but we no longer need to do this.

Mohedizadeh then discussed the iron problem and said that the government's goal is to break the price private dealers have set by the government's importation of iron rods. Government imports annually are 150 to 400 thousand tons. In connection with cement, import agreements have been abrogated and no cement will be imported this year. Last year, in the area of 10.5 million tons of cement was produced domestically, and that will increase this year. During the revolution, prior purchase agreements and the black market forced cement prices up. As a result of the Ministry's action the black market has been smashed and cement trading is normal.

Import of Drugs

Mohedizadeh concluded by saying that with the cooperation of the Ministry of Health the shortage of drugs will be made up by importation. Also, with the cooperation of the pasturage operations organization we will eliminate the shortage of meat products. Solving the shortage of chemical fertilizer has also been done with the cooperation of this same organization, which will also purchase fertilizer.

9448

CSO: 4906

WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX RISES 10.56 PERCENT

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 14 Aug 79 p 12

[Text] The economic statistics office of the Central Bank published a report on the wholesale price index for the month of Khordad [22 May - 21 Jun]. The report states that the index reached 164.7 in Khordad 1358 [1978] which was 1.3 percent lower than the previous month. The index showed an increase of 10.8 percent over the same month last year. The index was 0.4 percent lower than for Ordibehesht 1358 [21 Apr-21 May 1978] after adjustment for seasonal fluctuation. In the first three months of the current year the wholesale price index increased 10.5 percent compared to the same period last year. The bank's report added that the decrease in the index for Khordad arises largely from the seasonal decline of fresh fruit and vegetable prices. Also contributing to the decline in the index was the fall in prices of livestock, red meat and eggs. Going up were the prices of rice, flour, dried fruit, industrial raw materials, some building materials, especially cement and bricks, wearing apparel, meat and poultry, chemical and petrochemical products, and paper and cardboard. The bank described wholesale prices for a group of commodities as follows:

1. Production and consumer goods reached a level of 170.5, down 2.3 percent from the previous month.
2. Imports increased 0.9 percent because of rises in chemical and petrochemical prices.
3. Prices of exports increased 4.6 percent over the previous month due to increases in carpets, dried fruit, livestock feed and poultry and mineral products.

The bank's report also mentioned a group of basic commodities as follows:

1. Food and grain products increased 5.2 percent in Khordad over the previous month.

2. Clothing and textiles went up 10 percent over the same month last year.
3. Machine tools and transportation vehicles rose 0.5 percent which compared to the same products last year was an increase of 6.4 percent.

At the end of the report a special group of products is mentioned. Agricultural index level of 7.2 percent caused the index of agricultural and livestock products to decrease by 6.5 percent. An increase in the index of nonmetal building materials of 4.2 percent caused an increase in the metal building materials by 2.7 percent this month.

9448

CSO: 4906

HOUSING, LOAN PROBLEMS DISCUSSED

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 13 Aug 79 p 10

[Article: "Housing: Sweet Dreams, No Houses"]

[Text] Tens of thousands of empty houses and apartments are awaiting buyers and their owners go from one agency to another asking, "Any news?"

The usual answer is, "Nothing yet. Let's see what happens."

Nearly 100,000 housing units in Tehran are empty. This is the greatest problem in the capital as also in other cities and rural areas. A problem which appeared many years ago still remains.

Several years ago when the fever of moving to Tehran and other cities went up, everyone went into building and the wages of workers, architects and masons went up several times and building materials were to be found only in the black market. The builders of houses and apartments went into the black market unconcerned by the fact that cement worth 75 rials a bag was selling for 700, or that bricks, plaster and pipes were at several times the actual price. Why? Because they knew they could still sell the building for several times its worth.

Looking at the price indexes of recent years shows that all this building and selling caused the prices of many items to go up unreasonably and affected all prices to a degree. The attraction of profit increased in this climate and even doctors, merchants, businessmen and in short everyone went into building, aggravating the difficulties of supplying water, electricity and other municipal services and causing stagnation in other activities.

Government officials in those days promised to solve the housing problem, but not only did they not untie this knot but problems of even greater dimensions arose. Why was it that housing was so expensive that middle and lower class people had no hope of buying and could only look out with envy? After the revolution, prices came down greatly, due to the activities, laws and supervision of the revolutionary council. However, still the average price of a house is not low enough for the majority of people to purchase one.

One of the latest government actions is to give loans to buyers. After the National Bank announced that it was accepting loan requests 90,000 people applied. The total amount of loans requested was approximately 180 billion rials which is much more than the bank has allocated. The maximum that will be loaned to an applicant is 300,000 tomans at an interest of 9 percent. The repayment period is 10 to 12 years but may be extended to 15.

However, people say that with present prices even these loans will not enable them to buy. The deputy of the central branch of the National Bank said in this connection, "The primary objective of the loan program is to help those with little income to buy a house. Without doubt the sum loaned to the applicant will not be enough and the loan taker must have an additional sum for a down payment. The loan would cover up to 70 percent of the value of the house. The remaining 30 percent is the responsibility of the buyer."

The bank gives loans to those who do not own a house and the conditions of the loan request follow this principle.

Bank officials believe that the basis for a loan should be the good character of the applicant and those filing applications without showing such will remain houseless.

The majority of the applicants say that in view of the number applying and the limited funds to be loaned their chances are slim.

What Do The Experts Say?

All real estate experts say that the housing problem will not be solved by giving loans to low income people or empty homes to the disadvantaged. One expert said that this problem is a large social one, aggravated by other problems resulting from the lack of correct, detailed statistics and the lack of proper planning of construction. Solving the problem requires both short and long term planning. In the short term, housing experts and social and economic affairs officials must have before them the facts of the problem in all regions. On such a basis the government can guide people in their investments, establish housing associations for workers and factories, and secure expert technical assistance for them, and also control the production of building materials. Similarly, it can use the creation of new communities to alleviate the problem. In long range planning, an operational plan of aid to proper groups must also be pulled together. Investigations must be conducted regarding population density in various parts of the country and ascertaining, from all sources, the number of dwellings fit for habitation, repair or those that must be destroyed.

Another expert said that if the government bought empty houses, private investment would be slight and the private sector would give up any interest in home building. The balance between supply and demand, an important principle of economics, would disappear. The government only could solve the

problem of housing for all classes with a plan of its own to nationalize housing and not allow private participation.

Another plan to solve the problem has been the establishment of a foundation for housing the disadvantaged.

The solution for providing housing to the disadvantaged is visualized as being the renting or selling of houses to them by the foundation. Ayatollah Khosroshahi, president of the foundation's board of trustees announced that the owners of empty apartments have until winter until they must turn over to the foundation all unrented or unsold units, for which a fair rental or price will be offered. Otherwise, the foundation itself will purchase them at a fair price and register them for the underprivileged people. He said that at the end of winter no unit must be empty. However, the next day, the Minister of Housing said such an action would require a new law and for that reason could not be implemented. To guarantee housing would require revolutionary steps.

The Situation Has Not Changed

What do real estate advisors say about buying, selling or renting? Why is the future of a portion of the market in their hands?

We asked Ali Akbar Hatef, who works in Gisha Section, whether there was any change in the market after the recent decision by the government for the disadvantaged housing foundation to rent or sell houses. He said there had not been many changes in recent months; of course the number of interested people has increased, but not many deals have been completed. It has been eight months since I closed a deal. Most customers are looking for houses in the 300 to 350 thousand toman range which are scarce around here and in Tehran as a whole. Most houses in this area are in the area of 600,000 and may not be purchased even with bank loans. As soon as it was announced that bank loans would be made the cost of houses immediately went up 20 to 40 thousand tomans. Now sellers and buyers are waiting. Even those who wanted to buy are saying, "Let us wait, the prices will go down." The landlords believe, that as in the past, the announcement of loans will make prices higher. They believe also that loans from the National Bank will not affect trade because the most a buyer could get would be 300,000 tomans which would not be enough."

"Hamraz" another property expert said that because the amount of the loans does not correspond to the prices of homes or apartments now, the price of land and houses may decrease, especially since every day news to that effect is being printed.

Home Loans, Untying the Knot

Most prospective buyers do not expect to get a bank loan, besides they consider it insufficient. For example, Hassan Hafezi, a 24 year old electrical

technicians, said, "My income is about 4000 tomans. I have been married two months. Even with a bank loan, I would also have to add my own money in order to buy. Since I have no savings and no one from whom to borrow, the bank loan, in reality, is useless. Unless something is changed so that the house is sold to me on installments from the beginning, that is, rent payment could be applied against the purchase."

Ali Halaj Shomali said, "Loans will not help us. If I cannot find a house to rent for 2500 tomans how can I find a house for 300,000 tomans to buy? Of course, there are some in the southern part of town but there are a thousand problems there. For example, presently I live in Vali Asr on Saveh road. There are no conveniences at all. In the winter there is so much mud that walking the streets is impossible and the water is cut off at least ten times a day. I am trying to find a place so I can get out of the area but without success."

His wife also said that it is true that houses in this area are cheaper than in the north of the city. but there is so much dirt and dust that I am afraid to buy anything locally for my small child. You have already heard about the water and electricity."

Statistical Index of Land and Construction Material Costs and the Increase in Workers' Wages in Recent Years

<u>Year</u>	<u>Land Index</u>	<u>Materials Index</u>	<u>Workers' Wages</u>
1353 [21 Mar 73-20 Mar 74]	10	100	100
1354	126.6	105.2	147.1
1355	205.5	120.6	205.1
1356	310.0	157.3	275.6
1357	271.5	156.1	324.4

To show the increase in cost of land, materials and wages in recent years the year 1353 was used as a base and costs for that year we set at 100. The table shows increases until 1357. [21 Mar 1977-20 Mar 1978] This was prepared based on statistics from the Central Bank. We point out that the cost of houses is directly related to the cost of land, material and wages. The table can be used to show rises and falls in housing prices.

Statistical Index of Materials Prices and Wages During the First Four Months of this Year

<u>Month</u>	<u>Wages</u>	<u>Building Material Costs</u>
Farvardin [21 Mar-20 Apr]	339.4	152.2
Ordibehesht [21 Apr-21 May]	352.7	154.1
Khordad [22 May-21 Jun]	358.8	158.2
Tir [22 Jun-Jul]	159.9	-

The above index shows building material costs and workers' wages in the first few months of 1358 [1978] on the basis of base year 1353 [21 Mar 73-20 Mar 74].

9448

CSO: 4906

OIL INDUSTRY FACES SERIOUS PROBLEMS

Tehran EXCLUSIVE in English 2 Sep 79 pp 5-6

[Text] Last week, Iran imported some \$47 million worth of kerosene and gas oil from the United States to help meet the shortage in the domestic consumption. The United States has also promised to meet Iran's oil consumption needs during the winter when need for these two oil items would increase sharply. Iran has always imported kerosene and gas oil during winters since her local production cannot meet the domestic demand as consumption has greatly increased. But usually, the imports are made from some neighbouring countries like Kuwait or Iraq, who had reportedly declined to supply Iran this year as a protest to certain policies made by Imam Khomeini. Informed sources claim that lack of expertise at the oil industry has damaged some installations and that the production level and capacity of the Abadan Oil Refinery has declined sharply. This winter, the shortage of kerosene and gas oil is expected to continue even more than before unless the United States should continue to supply the balance. Meanwhile, lack of expertise in the oil industry is becoming a threat to the production of crude oil and as such export of crude to other countries. Muslim militants in the oil industry strongly oppose employment of expatriates in the oil industry although key officials in the industry have said that any oil industry anywhere in the world are compelled to employ a number of advisors in order to regulate their productions. Islamic militants claim that Palestinian experts could well replace those of European or American experts and advisors and that the Palestinians could also give them on-the-job training which other experts will not even consider.

As a result, production and refinery of oil in Khuzestan is facing a severe obstacle in the production of crude oil since the highly trained Iranian technicians working at the oil industry are supporting Hassan Nazieh, the managing director of the National Iranian Oil Company, while the militant Muslims who are doing the jobs which do not need much training are creating problems for Nazieh, believing that Nazieh is not much favoured by the Imam and that his being the president of the Bar Association would take the employees of the oil industry away from making the industry in Iran a real Islamic enterprise.

Oil Company's highly trained technicians and engineers are supporters of Hassan Nazieh, who is a non-communist and followers of the policy of the late Dr Mohammad Mossadeq. They have even nominated Nazieh as Iran's first president believing that his moderate policy would put back Iran in a modern and democratic path under which Iran would regain its past glory as a fast developing country. They have nothing against Islam and religion, but they will not be able to fill the gap made by the ouster of the Western experts at the oil industry in Iran.

CSO: 4920

EXPLOITING BUTCHERS WHIPPED IN PUBLIC

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 19 Aug 79 p 10

[Text] In accordance with a regulation issued by the special Islamic court, that based on the supervision of komitehs throughout the country having special authority in regard to essential commodities, Imam Khomeyni komiteh for trade affairs has authorized guards in 14 areas of Tehran to scrutinize the sale of a number of commodities, especially meat and fruit. They will inform the district komiteh of owners of stores or merchants who oppose the revolution by engaging in black marketeering, price gouging or hoarding, which to Islam is the same as stealing. A file on them will be opened and they will be tried and punished by a special Islamic court in the komiteh of trade affairs.

The guards will begin this duty in 14 districts of Tehran as of Saturday. They will scrutinize meat prices in large markets and in butcher shops. Any merchant selling lamb for more than 130 rials a kilo or kidneys for more than 75 rials a kilo will be watched closely.

An informed source of the komiteh explained why this action was necessary in the following way: "The komiteh has often discussed this problem with those in this business. Today we have posted a list of approved prices in all butcher shops and meat markets and the proprietors are obliged to display them on their doors. By the grace of God we have given meat price gougers until Saturday to reform. However, after next Saturday there will be no leniency shown and they will be tried and punished by religious rules."

This official said that the minimum punishment prescribed for price gouging butchers was a public whipping so that the people would know who he is.

He added that using Islamic courts was not in accordance with the policy of previous regimes and was never used for criminal matters. However, punishment for this type of extortionate activity will be fixed by Islamic tenets so that in short order it will be stamped out.

Finally he said: "In order to stop fruit price gouging, the prices will be announced daily in the markets. Fruit sellers are prohibited from charging more than 15 to 20 percent above the announced price. Consumers have the right to inform the komiteh of incidents of price gouging, if no district guard is available, and a case will be opened against the offender in the Islamic court of the komiteh for trade affairs."

BRIEFS

BAKHTIAR SUPPORT INCREASES--Reports from the United States and Europe indicated last week that supporters of former Prime Minister Dr Shapour Bakhtiar is increasing rapidly. Last week, some 700 Iranian students staged a demonstration at London's Hyde Park Corner, supporting Dr Bakhtiar, while another group of 500 people were shouting anti-Khomeini slogans in London. At the same time, the number of Iranians shouting slogans in support of Imam Khomeini did not exceed 30 people who were later dispersed by the rival groups. Both in London and in Paris, pro-Bakhtiar feeling is on the rise and new newspapers are being published in Farsi, supporting Dr Bakhtiar and criticizing Imam Khomeini. These Persian language newspapers also condemn Prime Minister Bazargan for having forgotten the cause for which he had been struggling for long. The Iranians, who are largely composed of the students have accused Bazargan of wasting the blood of Iranian youth and offering their country to a "bunch of hooligans who kill people under the name of Islam." Travellers from the United States also maintain that anti-Khomeini demonstrations have started in many states and that the number of those supporting Dr Bakhtiar is increasing rapidly. [Text] [Tehran EXCLUSIVE in English 2 Sep 79 p 8]

CSO: 4920

BACKGROUND OF RECENT COUP ATTEMPT ANALYZED

London 8 DAYS in English 11 Aug 79 p 23

[Article by Peter Mansfield]

[Text] AN INTERNAL upheaval in Iraq is of great importance to the whole Gulf area — especially now that Baghdad is taking a full part in plans for increased regional co-operation. It also affects the balance of power within the Arab world. There are sound historical reasons for seeing the history of the Fertile Crescent in terms of struggle between the rulers of the valleys of the Nile and the Tigris for influence over the Syrian heartland. In the 1950s it was Nuri Said versus Nasser, 20 years later it is Saddam versus Sadat. An over-simplification of course but it has a sound basis of truth.

Unfortunately, the latest events in Baghdad are more than usually difficult to interpret, experienced Middle Eastern analysts have never been in such disarray. Consider the various theories that have been put forward — mainly from Beirut, which may have lost its pre-eminence as the financial centre of the Levant but remains unchallenged as the clearing-house for political rumours. First there was the suggestion that the five leading conspirators in the plot against the regime were pro-Soviets who were alarmed by Iraq's recent conciliatory moves towards the West and the growing breach with both Moscow and the Iraqi Communist Party. There was a counter-theory that the plot was aimed to push Iraq towards acceptance of the Israeli-Egyptian Treaty and this drew some support from the official Iraqi statement.

There was also a suggestion that it is primarily a Shiite revolt. It has become something of a cliché to ascribe all unrest in Iraq to resentment by the Shiite majority

against the monopoly of political power by the Sunnis. However, first reports that four of five of the leading alleged conspirators were Shiites now turn out to be untrue. Then there is the question of the position of the former president Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr. Did he, as David Hirst of the *Guardian* confidently asserts, resign rather than retire after refusing to sign the death sentences for a number of army officers and Shiite mullahs because he was 'old, sick and tired and about to meet his maker'? The special session of the Iraqi Baath regional conference and the Revolutionary Command Council held on 22 July went out of its way to scotch this suggestion by expressing 'high appreciation and profound admiration for father leader comrade Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr'. This of course does not prove that there was no rift between Bakr and his successor Saddam Hussein but his resignation could very well have been due to bad health. He has been known to have wanted to resign for some time but his remaining in office, even as a figurehead, was important to Saddam Hussein as a guarantee of the support of the armed forces for the regime. Although Saddam Hussein became an honorary general following his role in the suppression of the Kurdish rebellion of 1974-75, he is a civilian and there is always the danger that some senior officers will resent his position as the country's leader.

But perhaps most important of all is a declaration in the joint Baath and RCC statement that 'the conspirators had been in contact with an external quarter which the leadership finds it is not in the best national-

ist interest to expose now'. The identification of this 'external quarter' gave rise to a flurry of suggestions: Libya, the PDRY (with which Iraq's relations have recently deteriorated because of the assassination of an Iraqi communist exile in Aden by killers allegedly sent from Baghdad), Khomeini's Iran (through the Shiite connection again) and finally Syria. This last does seem the most probable because it is something which the Iraqi leadership would most want to keep quiet. A new breach with Syria would mean the collapse of the anti-Sadat front. There is no doubt at all that during the long and bitter dispute between the Syrian and Iraqi Baathist regimes which lasted with only brief respites from July 1968 to November 1978 that Iraq was doing its best to subvert the Syrian regime. The question is whether Syria continues to do this after the official reconciliation of last November. Some Palestinian sources in Beirut have suggested that the Syrian plan was to use Syrian parachutists dressed in Iraqi uniforms to carry out a coup in Baghdad which would have made Hafez Assad president of a united Iraqi-Syrian state with Abdul Khalek Samarrat, who has been under house arrest for some years in Baghdad, as vice-president. It is hard to believe that President Assad, with his natural cau-

tion, could have favoured such a crack-brained scheme which would certainly have failed.

One returns finally to the simple explanation that Saddam Hussein, after taking over the presidency, is strengthening his own position by eliminating all potential opposition. This does not explain everything because two of the leading alleged conspirators — Adnan Hussein and Mohammed Mahjoub — were members of the new cabinet appointed by Saddam Hussein himself on 16 July. (There could be an analogy with President Sadat's counter-coup against his own vice-president and ministers in May 1971.) But for some time there have been indications that despite Saddam Hussein's commanding position in the regime there have been some elements who disputed his policy decisions. This could explain why the clear moves to improve commercial relations with Britain which resulted from Lord Carrington's visit to Baghdad was followed by the unexplained arrest of the British businessman John Smith. It should become apparent before long whether President Saddam Hussein does have control and whether he regards Syria as implicated in the conspiracy. However, it may still be considered against the 'nationalist interest' to say so publicly.

RADICAL CHANGES MADE IN SECRET POLICE ORGANIZATION

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 11 Aug 79 p 15

[Article by Najib 'Abd al-Hadi: "Radical Changes in Intelligence Apparatus"]

[Text] The attempt to sweep away the regime of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, which was revealed recently along with its main participants and leaders, has left many question marks not only for the Iraqi president but also for various Iraqi party cadres, bases and units which used to think that the party leadership on the state and party levels was both homogeneous and harmonious.

Perhaps the one who had the most questions and at the same time was the most distressed was the Iraqi president himself, who was linked by deep-rooted, profound militant and party ties to all the leaders of the conspiracy. President Saddam Husayn feels that he was dealt a blow by his own family and that the hand which stretched out to him was the same one which he had released to cover all aspects of life throughout the country.

The aggrieved Iraqi president thought that the opposition to his regime should not have used this "conspiracy method." In the first party meeting of its kind with party leaders in the "Hall of Eternity," he told the men involved in the attempt, "You could have expressed opposition to me by democratic means, and I could have stepped down in favor of anyone you chose. I don't have a monopoly on government, nor did I inherit it from my father or family."

They say the president was visibly affected at the time and that the words he uttered were full of hurt and bitterness.

The urgent question arises: "What next? What step or steps will follow the disclosure of the plot and the announcement of the names of its leaders? What next, after the issuing of the sentences?"

The task is very difficult. To emerge from this "passing ordeal," as certain Iraqi officials call it, requires radical changes on several levels, and these changes would cover the party, state, intelligence and military

organization. These changes require an extraordinary effort. Suspicion could become deeply embedded within the party itself. President Saddam Husayn and a number of leaders are trying to prevent this from happening and to stop it from spreading in order to facilitate the elimination of all justifications for division and fragmentation so that no breaches will appear in the wall of the party.

In order to achieve this goal, the Iraqi president has begun to hold meetings nearly every day with all segments of the party, its organizations and unions, to explain the dimensions and objectives of the plot, which goes beyond Iraq to include the entire Arab region. He gives them all the available information, documents and facts he has which prove that this group was driven by foreign parties who were trying to obliterate the pan-Arab role of Iraq and torpedo both its efforts to reunite Arab ranks and the decisions of the Baghdad summit, in order to facilitate the passage of a peaceful, capitulatory solution similar to the separate treaty of compromise between al-Sadat's regime and Israel. President Saddam Husayn, along with Iraqi leaders, realizes that there is more than one party trying to shatter the Arab front, fragment its efforts and assure its failure and inability to fill the political vacuum resulting from the separate peace treaty. Thus the new Iraqi orientation, even after the exposure of conspiracy and the conspirators, makes it imperative to have self-control and not plunge into emotional outbursts which might do more harm than good. Therefore, the Iraqi regime has been content to issue one official statement, and has not added any information or statements about the party which hatched the plot.

AL-MUSTAQBAL has learned that President Saddam Husayn strongly censured the intelligence apparatus and accused it of negligence. In reprimanding Sa'dun Shakir, the top official of this apparatus, the president said, "Where has the intelligence apparatus been throughout the period from 1975 to the present? Why was it incapable of exposing this plot?" AL-MUSTAQBAL has also learned that President Saddam Husayn has ordered that radical changes be made in the intelligence apparatus. He has placed his half brother [from the same mother] Barzan Ibrahim at its head. The latter supervised the investigation of all of the accused. President Saddam Husayn has intentionally made Sa'dun Shakir a member of the court so that he can learn the details and intricacies of the conspiracy which were concealed from him throughout the period when he was responsible for the immediate supervision of this significant and important apparatus.

7811

CSO: 4802

SHIFT IN U.S. POLICY TOWARDS ISRAEL NOTED

Tel Aviv HAZOFEN in Hebrew 9 Aug 79 p 2

/Editorial: "Delayed Confrontation"/

/Text/ The American administration is trying to assure Israel that no negative shift has taken place in its policies vis-a-vis Israel. During his meeting with President Carter Ambassador Ephraim Evron was told that the U.S. commitments toward Israel are still in effect but that the search for an overall peace settlement should be speeded up and Israel should assist in doing so. He emphasized his opposition to the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Secretary of State Vance also rejected the Israeli foreign minister's allegation that a shift has taken place in the American position, especially in bringing the PLO closer in order to please Saudi Arabia. Vance said that such a shift has not occurred and that things are conducted according to the traditional policy line.

The foreign minister's statement concerning the shift in U.S. policy is based on fact. For example: the U.S. violation of the agreement concerning the need for an emergency force rather than UN observers in Sinai; the surprising anti-Israeli proposals made by the American representative to the autonomy talks; Vance's pressure to stop the military activity against the terrorists in Lebanon; massive supply of arms to Jordan; and the unofficial talks between American representatives and the PLO on a change or addition in resolution 242 which would be brought up for discussion in the Security Council which is due to meet soon.

The Israeli protest, which was expressed in no uncertain terms, elicited a vague American response--the tenor of which was that no shift has taken place. According to one report, the U.S. would veto any resolution calling for the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza.

It can be assumed that because of domestic political considerations the American administration is interested in toning down its efforts to please the Saudi oil barons. It seems that Democratic Senator Maynihan, in his

call "not to buy Saudi oil at the expense of Israel's freedom," expressed the sentiment felt by a significant portion of the American public. Until now there has been no proof that the administration neglected its policy of compromising with the PLO and of including Jerusalem as a part of the autonomy, just as Saudi Arabia suggested.

The Israeli-American confrontation has been granted a valuable delay, but there are signs that the confrontation has not been eliminated and it may reappear in this or that context when the first opportunity presents itself.

We will again have to depend on the help of the American Jewish leadership and on our friends among those who shape American public opinion in order to resist trends in the administration's policies which are far from being friendly.

The operative and moral strengthening of our government is vital not only for carrying out its social and economic policies but for its stature in foreign affairs as well.

9446

CSO: 4805

ANDREW YOUNG'S MEETING WITH PLO OBSERVER DENOUNCED

Tel Aviv HAZOFEH in Hebrew 15 Aug 79 p 2

/Editorial: "'Accidents', 'Goofs' and Lies"/

/Text/ The apology expressed yesterday by the American secretary of state, Cyrus Vance, in a telephone conversation with the Israeli ambassador to the United States, Ephraim Evron, was the latest episode in the American administration's series of twists and turns surrounding the "accidental" meeting of the American ambassador to the UN with a PLO observer in the "Glass House." Vance expressed his regret concerning the meeting and said that no change has taken place in the U.S. policy of non-recognition of and non-negotiation with the PLO unless it recognizes Israel's right to exist and accepts Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. Vance also reprimanded Andrew Young for the misleading information he provided about the meeting. Vance's apology apparently came as a result of Israel's formal complaint about the U.S. Government's violation of its commitments and repeated statements concerning negotiations with and recognition of the PLO. The Israeli Government did not "buy" the ridiculous account given by the State Department spokesman concerning the meeting's circumstances and content, and asserted in its statement that in the meeting--which was held in the Kuwaiti ambassador's residence--the American ambassador to the UN discussed with the PLO observer the forthcoming meeting of the Security Council on the Palestinian question.

The twisted explanations of the State Department spokesman concerning the meeting could perhaps have been interpreted as a joke had the subject not been so serious. According to the State Department spokesman, the meeting was accidental and the American ambassador's visit to the Kuwaiti ambassador's house was purely a "courtesy call" (Kuwait--as is well known--will introduce in the Security Council next week a resolution calling for the establishment of a Palestinian state), and it was only a coincidence that the PLO observer was there as well. The spokesman quoted the ambassador as saying that no political subject was discussed at that accidental meeting. The secretary of state's deputy for UN affairs hastened to clarify to the Israeli ambassador to the United States that the meeting was a "goof." Young himself quickly met with the Israeli ambassador to the UN, Prof Yehuda Blum, in order "to put things in their proper perspective."

Yesterday the American administration realized that it had gone too far, and thus the American ambassador to the UN had to admit that he had misled the State Department in first reporting that the meeting was "accidental." The Secretary of state reprimanded the ambassador and expressed his regret about the affair. But it is difficult to see this matter as being over and as just another slip of the tongue or another blunder by the UN ambassador, who is one of President Carter's closest colleagues.

The conflicting explanations, excuses and statements concerning the meeting with the PLO observer indicate how confused the U.S. Government is when it comes to the question of contacts with the PLO. But beyond the confusion and the lack of consistent positions one fact stands out: the American administration systematically tries to establish direct contact with the PLO in order to bring it into the political process in the Middle East. Even if the United States vetoes next week the Kuwaiti resolution calling for the establishment of a Palestinian state, it is expected that it will not abandon its efforts to make contact with PLO representatives. It should be made clear now--on the eve of the arrival here of the U.S. ambassador to the Middle East peace talks /Robert Strauss/--that Israel will not be satisfied with repeated declarations by administration spokesmen that the U.S. policy on negotiations with the PLO has not changed. There have been too many signs that the declarations are no longer supported by action.

9446

CSO: 4805

CRISIS OF CONFIDENCE ANALYZED

Tel Aviv HAZOFEH in Hebrew 9 Aug 79 p 2

/Editorial: "Senseless Hatred"/

/Text/ One affair follows another. First there was Foreign Minister M. Dayan's strong criticism of the government in which he said, "Your destroyers will come from within your own ranks." Then came the criticism of Yitzhak Rabin, the former prime minister of the Alinment Party, who said about his colleague Shimion Peres that "Peres is unfit to serve as prime minister." Dayan's complaint was received with joy by the Alinment, which is now an opposition party. They were lucky to have their job done by a senior minister in the Likud government. Comments by Labor Party leaders indicate that they predict the imminent demise of Begin's government.

The excerpts from Rabin's book in which he tarnishes the reputation of the Labor Party's candidate for premiership, prove that the internal feuds in this party are very much alive and may explode as elections draw closer and raise expectations even higher. Even the book's outline contains many explosive details. When the book is published it will surely increase hatred among the different camps within the Labor Party. It is safe to assume that the Likud believes that the renewed fighting within the Alinment can help in preventing its victory in the next election. Recent polls have shown many signs indicating the Alinment's recovery. Now comes Rabin's book which becomes a roadblock.

The Alinment collapsed because of internal corruption. The fighting among the heirs brought about the use of repulsive means by both sides. Many have left the Alinment: some of them voted for the DMC /Democratic Movement for Change/ and some even voted for the Likud. The split in the DMC and the vocal fights within the Likud raised among the Alinment leadership hopes of returning to power. Rabin's book introduces dark shadows of past affairs, and this may drag the Labor Party into a host of serious battles.

Beyond the question of electoral calculations for the next election--whether conducted as scheduled or earlier--there exists the problem of the entire nation's welfare: such poisonous affairs, accompanied by in-fighting, destroy whatever confidence is left in elected officials and in the governing leadership. The 2 years under the Likud government have been too short to accumulate a history of affairs, but the animosity among government ministers--especially among the economic ministers of the Liberals--has contributed significantly to the bad image of the government.

Political life is quite often characterized by struggles among different factions and personalities who can often be subversive. But everything has a limit, and the leadership is usually able to restrain potentially damaging clashes.

But in Israel, these affairs have turned into constant nightmares relating to public figures of the highest rank. And when these people are short on affairs relating to the past they invent them in the present by generating hidden struggles and sometimes by public and unrestrained fighting.

Not only does the bitter fighting damage the orderly conduct of government--a serious enough matter--but it also leads to social and moral deterioration among certain classes of society.

Since the Alinement is an opposition party now, the confrontation within the Labor Party leadership (which could increase as a result of Rabin's publication) will be kept to a large extent within the party.

But the dysfunctions of the coalition government on the one hand, and the need for an economic program to increase the country's prosperity on the other, require basic improvements both in planning and in action. One cannot overcome a crisis of confidence by patching over old patches, but only by making substantive changes. The decision is in the hands of the prime minister, who is definitely aware of both the internal criticism and the nature of the difficulties. We are now waiting for improvements in the leadership's decisiveness. Indeed, the latter will have to be demonstrated by all of the coalition members who wish to govern effectively and reliably during the next 2 years.

Senseless hatred is destroying the leadership of the Labor Party even when it is in the opposition. That means that their ills are organic and cannot be cured even by the shock caused by the loss of power.

The test of the present coalition government will be in its ability to overcome the senseless hatred among some of its members and to demonstrate its combined ability to provide effective and ingenious government.

9446
CSO: 4805

INCREASING JEWISH POPULATION IN GALILEE URGED

Tel Aviv HAZOFEH in Hebrew 9 Aug 79 p 2

/Editorial: "Judaizing the Galilee"/

/Text/ The chief of the northern command explained the military aspects of regional defense to a group of members of the Knesset who visited the Golan Heights in order to gain first-hand understanding of the Heights' military significance. After the Yom Kippur war it became apparent that agricultural settlements which are incorporated into the regional defense network have a great advantage. Such first-hand information should prove to be very valuable when the new political circumstances concerning the future of the Golan Heights are discussed.

In his presentation, the regional commander spoke specifically about the situation in the Galilee, and said--as he was quoted on Israeli radio--that the Arabs in the Galilee are becoming increasingly extremist, identify with Arab nationalism, and constitute a military cancer among us.

Making this and similar statements public caused the minister of defense to reprimand the regional commander, because these Arabs are Israeli citizens and should not be slandered.

Formally speaking, caution should be exercised in expressing opinions and in making them public. But there is also a reality which cannot be ignored and which must be solved. During the recent demonstration by thousands of Galilee Arabs in front of the Knesset--which was hostile toward the state of Israel--it became apparent that the Galilee must be Judaized quickly.

We cannot change the opinions held by the Arabs in the Galilee who are trying to purchase land in order to increase their population and become the majority in the area. But we can increase the Jewish population in the Galilee and ought to mobilize people and many resources in order to Judaize the Galilee soon.

9446

CSO: 4805

MAYOR OF JERUSALEM CRITICIZED

Tel Aviv HAZOFEH in Hebrew 15 Aug 79 p 2

/Editorial: "The Development of Jerusalem"/

/Text/ The concern of the mayor of Jerusalem, Teddy Kollek, for the development of Israel's capital is well known, although his views on this question do not always match those of various state agencies. Everyone agrees that maximum effort should be made in order to develop Jerusalem--especially in building and industry--and to strengthen its status as the capital of Israel. But goodwill cannot always be translated into adequate budgeting. When the national treasury is experiencing financial difficulties, all national activities and services are affected, and Jerusalem cannot be the exception.

Mr Kollek has the right to fight, complain, and demand more resources for the development of Jerusalem, but even fights should be carried out in good taste. Two days ago the mayor sent a strong letter to the minister of the interior, Dr Yosef Burg, who also heads the Ministerial Committee for Jerusalem Affairs. The letter contained allegations of "indifference, lack of understanding and lack of action that hurt the capital severely." One must assume that Mr Kollek's letter was written out of sincerity and pain, but the strongly worded letter--and even more so, making it public--does not serve the cause which is shared by both Kollek and the ministerial committee. The development of Jerusalem is a national priority and if there are limitations on prompt and full-scale implementation, sharp letters which are made public will not cure the situation.

An example of the "lack of understanding and lack of action" was given yesterday at the meeting of the Ministerial Committee for Jerusalem Affairs. The committee decided to grant scientific industries in the capital the same benefits given to class A development areas. This decision means that a grant of 35 percent will be given to industries, in addition, all initial expenses for site development will be government financed. As noted by Minister Burg, the development of scientific industries in Jerusalem fits in well with the need to expand the city's industrialization by building plants which would prevent Hebrew University graduates from leaving the

city because they cannot find adequate employment. The ministerial committee also continued the discussion on plans for preparing new building sites for residential neighborhoods during the next 5 years.

Yesterday's meeting of the ministerial committee will not solve all of Jerusalem's problems, but its decisions--when materialized--will be an important step toward the development of the capital. It is the mayor's right to push and prod for stronger momentum, and his demands and suggestions will probably be listened to very carefully. But the way to accomplish this is not through publicized letters of protest or unjustified accusations.

9446

CSO: 4805

EDITORIAL SUGGESTS DELAY IN COLOR TV PREPARATIONS

Tel Aviv HAZOFEH in Hebrew 15 Aug 79 p 2

[Editorial: "Bread and Entertainment"]

[Text] The decision of the administrative board of the Broadcasting Authority not to host the musical program "Aerovision" in Israel next year leads one to say: better late than never. Immediately after an Israeli group won first place in the competition which was held in Jerusalem the administrative board should have decided that the Broadcasting Authority would not host the program next year. The tremendous expense and security precautions involved in such an event are luxuries which cannot be afforded more than once. But apparently the administrative board was swept by the exaggerated excitement raised by Israel's victory in this competition and guided by considerations of prestige, and thus decided at the time that "Aerovision" should be held in Israel next year as well.

Two days ago the board reversed its previous decision and accepted the advice of the Authority's director general not to host the program next year. The recommendation was based on economical considerations. And indeed, in these days of spiraling inflation and increases in the cost of living we must avoid all non-essential expenses. The cost of "Aerovision" is estimated at IL 20 million at today's prices. But there is a fly in the ointment: while explaining the reasons for economizing, the Authority's director general said that next year television must devote most of its resources to getting ready for the "color age," and due to the present economic situation it would not be possible to handle both undertakings at the same time.

The IL 20 million which will be saved as a result of not hosting "Aerovision" in Israel are a drop in the bucket compared to the huge amounts which would be necessary for the launching of the "color age" in television and for massive purchasing of color television sets by the public. In the current economic crisis every expense which is not essential must be eliminated, and steps should be taken to decrease the consumption of luxury products by the public. A decision by the administrative board of the Broadcasting Authority to suspend all steps toward TV broadcasting in color would save large amounts for the state's treasury and would help the public realize the state of emergency in which the Israeli economy exists.

BRIEFS

RUSSIAN EMIGRANTS--The rate of attrition among Russian emigrants reached a new record in July--70 percent. Out of 4,068 Jews who left the USSR in July 2,768 stayed in Vienna. This information was provided yesterday by Raphael Kotlowitz, head of the Department of Immigration and Absorption in the Jewish Agency. During the first 7 months of the year 21,000 immigrants came to Israel--an increase of 57 percent over the same period last year. In July the number of immigrants to Israel was 3,292 vs 2,187 in July of last year--an increase of 50 percent. Mr Kotlowitz also said that in July record occupancy was recorded by the 80 transit camps for immigrants which resulted in crowded conditions. There are 15,000 immigrants in these transit camps, many of whom have been waiting over a year for permanent housing.

/Text/ /Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 15 Aug 79 p 1/ 9446

CSO: 4805

NEGOTIATIONS TO EXPLOIT OIL SHALE CONCLUDED WITH USSR

'Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 10 Sep 79 p 2

[Excerpts] Bilateral negotiations between Jordan and the USSR concerning the exploitation of oil shale in Jordan were concluded in the headquarters of the Jordanian Natural Resources Authority yesterday. Engr Ahmad Dukhqan, vice-president of that authority, headed the Jordanian side, and Ivor Bukharov, chairman of the Soviet experts, headed the Soviet side.

Engr Dakhqan said that a team of Soviet experts had come to Jordan at the request of the Jordanian Government to study the exploitation of oil shale as a source of power in Jordan, and that a committee of Jordanian experts and specialists had been formed to collaborate with the Soviet team when the study of the project is finished.

He added that the shale has been determined to be of good quality and that there are about 800 million tons of reserves in the area of al-Lajjun, enough to warrant going ahead and completing the economic study of that area in preparation for exploiting the oil there either by direct burning or by extracting it from the shale to generate electricity.

He added "An agreement has been concluded with the Soviet side on a technical work program which defines the future stages to study the economic advantages. The necessary latitude to carry out the requested studies and operations and to select the methods of exploiting and treating the shale has been granted. It is fully intended to go ahead with the project and build a thermal power station with a capacity of 300 megawatts to be supplied with fuel from the shale."

CSO: 4802

BRIEFS

IMPORT LICENSE VALUES--An official source in the ministry of industry and commerce has announced that the total value of the importing licenses which it issued during the first 8 months of 1979 was 300,232,000 dinars and that the total duties paid on them was 6,876,794 dinars, an increase of 33 million dinars over the corresponding period in 1978, when the value of the licenses which it issued was 267,187,000 dinars and the total of the duties paid on them was 5,172,377 dinars. On the basis of article 4 of the import regulations, some goods are imported directly without the requirement of importing licenses, and the ministry of finance and customs collects duties on those. The total of the duties which the ministry of industry and commerce has imposed on the value of the importing licenses which it has issued was 6,776,095 dinars in 1976, 6,679,909 dinars in 1977, and 7,910,273 dinars in 1978. [Text] ['Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 12 Sep 79 p 2]

CSO: 4802

MAJOR HADDAD, OTHERS DISCUSS MILITARY SITUATION IN FREE LEBANON

Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 10 Aug 79 p 6

[Article by May Dahir: "AL-NAHAR Meets Military Officials in Border Strip; Haddad: All Tales Have Been Fabricated by Intelligence; Decree to Execute Anybody Seized With Weapons Against Free Lebanon"]

[Text] The news of the border strip have been abundant and entangled recently. Some reports have said that a number of military men in Sa'd Haddad's forces rebelled against him and prevented him from passing through the village of al-Qulay'ah without the protection of Israeli tracked vehicles. Other reports have said that Haddad entered a hospital in Naifa after being exposed to an assassination attempt carried out by Abu-Iskandar, the former military official in charge of Bint Jubayl.

A third tale has said that Haddad has moved his family to Israel, that a struggle for power is going on in the area and that Israel is detaining in its jails 20 military men who rebelled against the major.

To learn how true these tales are, we conducted yesterday a tour of the border strip and had interviews with a number of regular military men and with Psychiatrists and Liberals representing the "border militias." These officials reject this name and consider themselves "united Lebanese Forces under the command of Maj Sa'd Haddad, the number one and only official in charge of the State of Free Lebanon."

Policy of "Nibbling"

The "Free Lebanon" is the sign that meets us in the village of Bayt Yahun where the border militias advanced recently and almost clashed with the Irish forces deployed there.

Similar advances have also been made in the villages of Rishaf, al-Tiri, Sarbin and Bayt 'Ulayyan. This is the policy of nibbling the positions "little by little until the liberation of all of Lebanon," according to Major Haddad with whom we met on the way to al-Qulay'ah.

He descended from his military car, advanced toward us with his usual suspicion of whatever is strange and said immediately: "Give me these films immediately. You photograph our positions and give the photographs to the saboteurs. In any case, they make no difference to me. But what are you coming to do here. Do you think chaos rules here? Give me the films."

The attempts at persuasion are futile because Major Haddad is a fighter, even in his conversation. He answers every question by casting doubts on its source and with a tone that makes you feel that you will go to jail immediately. However, swinging between the jocular and the serious, he sits under a tree and answers our questions as follows:

Intelligence Reports

[Question] What is the truth of the reports talking about a struggle for power in your area?

[Answer] All these reports have been fabricated by the Syrian intelligence and the intelligence of the saboteurs who call themselves Palestinians. The Lebanese Duxieme Bureau, which has resumed its activity, has taken part in fabricating these reports. The whole story is that the citizens have lost the hope of getting rid of Syria and their only remaining hope is in us. All of Lebanon attaches its hopes to us. All know that our area is steadfast and that it will save Lebanon, God willing. The aim of the fabricated reports is to plant doubt in the hearts, of course not in the hearts of the people who live here because these people are not affected by such reports. The aim is to plant doubts in the hearts of the Lebanese living in the occupied area outside our area.

[Question] And the report of your assassination?

[Answer] I have told you it is a fabricated report.

[Question] And the issue of Abu-Iskandar? Why was he dismissed from his position as the military governor of Bint Jubayl?

[Answer] Military changes have taken place and such changes happen at all times and in every place. Since when do changes mean a rebellion and a coup? We had appointed Abu-Iskandar to a position and now we have appointed somebody else to the position. This is all there is to the story.

[Question] Why did you enter a hospital in Haifa and what is the story of your illness?

[Answer] Is this body made of iron? Is it forbidden to have general tests? In the days of legitimacy, i.e. the days of the official army, we used to enter the hospital annually to undergo medical tests. They used to summon the officers for medical examination. Did this mean that the officers were ill? I entered the hospital to have a general medical checkup.

[Question] What is the truth of another report transmitted by a news agency to the effect that Israel is detaining 20 military men from your forces because of their insubordination?

[Answer] This is one of the fabricated reports made to cast suspicions. In any case, the suspicions will turn against them. Regardless of how much suspicion they cast, the truth will emerge, and the truth is clear to all.

[Question] It has also been said that Maj Sami al-Shidyaq himself, who was responsible along with you for the western sector, has been under house arrest since he left the area.

[Answer] What are these concocted reports? Sami al-Shidyaq lives in Israel, is engaged in private business and is free.

Shi'ite Are Steadfast

[Question] How about your family? Have you moved it to Israel?

[Answer] Where do they bring these trumped up reports. Go to the house in Marj'uyun and you will find my wife asleep and my daughters in the house. I want to tell all those who concoct news to liberate themselves first. Let them stop talking through the trumpets of others--one time through the Palestinian trumpets, another through the Syrian and a third time through the Libyan trumpets and others. Let them stop torturing people, especially on the roads. Doesn't Salim al-Huss say that he has the legitimacy [established] in all the areas, except ours? Well then, a few days ago they kidnaped Sami Qutaysh, a Shi'ite who lives in the village of Hula in our area. They kidnaped him near al-Nabatiyah and seared him with skewers and embers. Nobody has spoken about this incident. Why didn't the prime minister protect him? Also a few days ago, a Shi'ite with heart trouble from Bint Jubayl was on his way to seek medical treatment. He was stopped at Abu-al-'Usud roadblock and was taken for interrogation. He died in their hands. The Shi'ite inhabitants issued a statement condemning the incident. Are the Shi'ites to be constantly subjected to torture? The plan was to devoid the south of the Shi'ites and to resettle the Palestinians in it. The Shi'ites will not leave their homes. They are more steadfast than we are. Whatever they do to the Shi'ites, they will remain steadfast and they will remain in their homes and on their land.

U.N. Forces

[Question] What is the truth of the reports on the possibility of a clash between the two real parties to the conflict in the area, i.e. Israel and the Palestinians, and the reports that your role is to chase the U.N. emergency forces out of the area so that the arena may be freed of them?

[Answer] The principle of the United Nations is: Lies are the salt of men and the disgrace goes to those who believe the lies. The Palestinians are

present in 24 bases inside the lines of the U.N. forces. They proceed from there and carry out operations against us while the U.N. forces ignore them. Those who will chase out the U.N. forces are the Palestinian saboteurs, not us.

[Question] What is your opinion of the international moves seeking to settle the Palestinian issue?

[Answer] Let them solve it any way they want. We do not stand in the face of the solution but we refuse to have the solution come about at the expense of Lebanon.

[Question] What if Israel stands in the face of a solution to the Palestinian issue and if it imposes the solution at the expense of Lebanon? Perhaps it suits it to resettle the Palestinians in Lebanon?

[Answer] No, this is not true at all. If Israel decides this, then we will be the first to fight it. Our agreement with Israel is based on respecting our homeland's sovereignty. I urge the Lebanese to oust the aliens, be they Syrians, Palestinians or others, from our land. Then we will reach agreement among ourselves. We will solve our internal problems and will not have the solutions coming to us from abroad. What is important is that the Lebanese be free to determine their future. We extend our hand to every Lebanese who backs down on his mistake. The Sunni Muslim has only Lebanon. Even the Druzes have never liked either the Palestinians or the Syrians. The story of the Shi'ites is well-known of course. Thus, the Lebanese, whatever their sect, have no place other than Lebanon.

Ultimatum of Execution

Major Haddad told us that he has issued the following decree:

"To all the Lebanese,

"Major Sa'd Haddad, leader of the Free Lebanon, warns that every Lebanese who bears arms and participates directly or indirectly in acts of war against Lebanon generally, and the Free Lebanon in particular, will be arrested inside or outside the Lebanese territories, will be convicted of high treason against the homeland and will be executed immediately."

Marj'uyun, 9 August 1979.

He said that the decree will go into effect as of Friday morning and that the death sentence will be carried out on the first infiltrator caught inside the border strip.

We leave Major Haddad in al-Qulay'ah so that he may go to a destination we don't know and we proceed to his house in Marj'uyun.

On the door, there was a note which read: "If you have come for a visit, then you are welcome. But if you have come on business or for a request, then please visit us in the office because the house is for rest and for the family."

The house is old and consists of one ground level story and a room under the road level. It is surrounded by sand bags. The wife is asleep and the five daughters are in the house.

We return from Marj'ayun to Bint Jubayl across the border strip villages. On the way, al-Mutillah Gate in Kfar Kala was open and crowded with Lebanese male and female workers returning from the plants or farms in Israel. A crowd of Israeli tourists on a trip to the gate or the "Good Wall" were taking memorial photographs and chanting "long live Lebanon, long live Lebanon."

Abu-Iskandar

In Bint Jubayl, we asked about Abu-Iskandar, the military official. They said that he had retired and returned to the restaurant-coffee shop that he owns in 'Ayn Ibl. There, we met him in his civilian clothes, but with his gun on his waist.

We asked him about the truth of the reports of his dismissal and the story of his attempt to assassinate Major Haddad. He said with a laugh:

"They are truly ridiculous reports. Major Haddad is my supreme example. He is our leader and from him we learn the example of sacrifice. He has sacrificed everything for the survival of Lebanon. His goal and ours is the same. I have the honor to be in his service and to sacrifice my life and the life of my children for his sake. All the rumored reports are tendentious and trumped up reports to create division within our ranks. On the day when the report was circulated, Major Haddad was at a hospital in Haifa because he had felt some stomach pains and wanted to have medical tests. When he returned, I was the first one to congratulate him. My position at present is normal and is something that happens in all armies of the world. There are commanders who run the battle and are then transferred to offices. I worked for 3 years without rest and I got tired. Changes took place and they assigned somebody else to carry out my duties. I have now returned to the restaurant-coffee shop that I own and that was run by my sons. I will remain in the service of Lebanon and the service of Major Haddad whenever he wishes to summon me to serve."

Concerns of Shi'ites

The military official in charge of Bint Jubayl at present is 'Ali Jabir. He said that a large number of Shi'ites are fighting on the side of Maj Sa'd Haddad "out of the belief and the conviction that Lebanon can be only for the Lebanese." He added that he is a Phalangist and that his father

before him was a Phalangist "but partisanship does not exist in our area. We here are Lebanese Forces that obey the orders of Maj Sa'd Haddad. We carry out whatever Major Haddad decides."

His being a Phalangist fighter in the Lebanese Forces in the border strip did not make him forget the concerns of the Shi'ites, some of which are connected with the disappearance of Imam Musa al-Sadr. He appealed to Ayatollah Khomeyni, saying: "If he is a true Shi'ite, he should intervene in this issue and return al-Sadr to us. Imam al-Sadr represented us and we are proud of him. When al-Sadr became aware of the true nature of the leftist parties and of the Palestinians who want to resettle in the south, they kidnaped him to Libya. We are very sorry that Iran has permitted the establishment of a PLO office in Tehran. The Palestinians torture the Shi'ites on the roadblocks to the city of Tyre. They are detaining tens of our people. The latest incident is that of Asadallah Bazzi who died of a heart attack [while being detained] at a roadblock. We ask Ayatollah Khomeyni, in his capacity as the most prominent Shi'ite leader in the area, to work for rescuing Imam al-Sadr and for rescuing the Shi'ites in southern Lebanon."

Recruited Forces

The military officials in the border strip are numerous. Every village is run by a military official and protected by armed elements from among its inhabitants who cordon off the village entrances with roadblocks. The border militias consist of the military men who previously followed the command of the Lebanese army and who number nearly 500 soldiers and 200 gendarmes. These forces also comprise the recruits who carried arms side by side with the military men. Some of these recruits have also joined the Phalanges Party which is the largest partisan organization in the border strip. There are elements of the National Liberals Party in Marj'uyun, Dibl [presumably Ibl] and Rumaysh. They set up their office in Rumaysh recently. There are also a few elements of the Guardians of the Cedars [Hurras al-Arz]. It is said that the total number of the militia fighters has exceeded 20,000 recruits.

The commissioner of the regular Phalangist forces in the south is Shakib Samarah and his headquarters is in Marj'uyun. His general deputy in the south is Louis Hasruni who said: "All the border militias and regular Phalangist forces receive their orders from Maj Sa'd Haddad. Our connection with the party in Beirut is a political connection. We are in agreement with the Lebanese Front on the free Lebanon that we want free of aliens."

We ask him about the truth of the report circulated by a news agency to the effect that Israel is detaining in its jails about 20 Lebanese military men who rebelled against Sa'd Haddad and he answered: "We, and not Israel, detain Lebanese military men. I have personally arrested seven soldiers belonging to the Lebanese battalion working with the U.N. emergency forces. These soldiers came to visit their families. We consider them spies and

we do not tolerate their likes. They have to either join us or go to jail. Every regular soldier who enters the Free Lebanon and fails to join us is arrested immediately."

Regarding the total number of soldiers detained in the border strip jails, he said 12 soldiers were put under detention in one year.

Abu-Emile, the commissioner of the regular Phalangist forces in Tyre and Bint Jubayl region, was at the roadblock of Bayt Yahun village to receive delegations of the inhabitants of the villages of Hadatha, Haris and 'Ayta al-Zutt. He said that the delegations had come of their free will to negotiate on matters concerning their villages. The delegations were carrying written invitations to come.

Abu-Emile explained that the aim of the meeting with the inhabitants was "to protect them from Palestinian infiltrators. A few days ago, the saboteurs infiltrated into the area of Haris and Hadatha, launched an attack on our positions and then fled. We wanted to summon the inhabitants to reach an understanding with them so as to spare them problems because it is not in our interest to shed innocent blood."

Concerning the rumored reports on the struggle for power, he said: "We are all military recruits that obey the orders of Maj Sa'd Haddad. He decides and we implement. Everything else is a lie and a mere fabrication."

In Rumaysh, a raised sign read: "The National Liberals-Rumaysh Branch." Abu-Danny, the branch leader said: "The office was opened a year ago for all the Liberal partisans from Rumaysh who were previously in Beirut. We hold periodic meetings and have constant contact with the party in Beirut. But we receive our military orders from Maj Sa'd Haddad and consider ourselves fighters in the Lebanese Forces."

We return from the Free Lebanon with a farewell from the fighters manning the advance roadblock in Bayt Yahun who said: "Shortly, you will hear good news. With time, we will reach you so wait for us." But, we are ordinary citizens who do not know what to expect nor what the days conceal for us.



Louis Hasruni



Abu-Emile



Abu-Iskandar



'Ali Hajjar

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CSO: 8802

BRIEFS

LIBYA ACCUSED OF BLACKMAIL--Two Indian newspapers last week accused Libya of using an oil agreement to put pressure on India to hand over sophisticated nuclear technology. Both THE TIMES OF INDIA and THE HINDU said Libya had cut off oil deliveries because Col Moammar Qadhafi was dissatisfied with the limited scope of a nuclear cooperation agreement which was signed in New Delhi last year. "The Qadhafi regime had evidently thought that with a little bit of arm-twisting, India could be persuaded to take a less rigid view of its policy of not transferring its nuclear technology," THE HINDU commented. Libya suspended deliveries last month after supplying 300,000 tons of oil to India out of a promised 1 million tons for this year. This was confirmed last week by the government-owned Indian Oil Corporation and the Libyan Embassy in New Delhi but has been denied by India's Petroleum Ministry. Oman al-Rukhssi, a Libyan diplomat in the Indian capital, told the Associated Press he had been caught off guard by the stories about nuclear technology but added that he thought Libya was using its oil as a "needle" and a "friendly nudge" to prod India to change its policy. The diplomat said that "we just want to let them know we are here, like a young son who wants his father's attention." Mr Rukhssi added that snags had developed in delivering oil after Iran reduced its shipments of oil to India. [Text] [Paris AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in English 3 Sep 79 p 6]

EFFECTS OF SAHARAN WAR, INTERNAL PROBLEMS DISCUSSED

Stability Threatened

Paris DEMAIN L'AFRIQUE in French 27 Aug 79 pp 32, 33

[Article by Raymond Morineau: "A Decisive Stage: but the Problem Remains Intact"]

[Text] "We know that in your overwhelming majority, you are Mauritania. Your country, Mauritania, is weary today and needs all its children for its growth. So do what is right, and go home to your own country, which is our friend and is in such great need of you." King Hassan II addressed these words on 14 August to "those who are fighting against us," that is to say, to the POLISARIO [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el-Hamra and Rio de Oro], while he was receiving the "oath of allegiance" of the 16 tribes in Tiris el-Gharbia (the portion of the Western Sahara attributed to Mauritania under the tripartite agreement in Madrid on 14 November 1975) and annexing the region. And on the 19th, the sovereign stated that Mauritania was in total "political rout."

Let us recall the facts. On 21 July, the OAU summit in Monrovia recognized the right of the Saharan people to self-determination and recommended a cease-fire and a referendum throughout the Western Sahara territory. On 5 August, in Algiers, a "definitive peace" agreement was signed between the POLISARIO and Mauritania. On 9 August, the Moroccan minister for Foreign Affairs, M'Hamed Boucetta, declared that the Algiers accords were "null and void," the king ordered the Moroccan troops stationed in Mauritania to withdraw, and the Moroccan military presence in Tiris el-Gharbia was strengthened. On the 10th, the Mauritanian prime minister, Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydallah, went to Rabat to seek an explanation, and there on the same day a Mauritanian soldier claiming to have set up a Free Committee of Mauritania Officers was introduced to the press. On the 11th, the POLISARIO launched the biggest battle of the war, involving close to 3,000 men, at Bir Anzaran (Morocco itself acknowledges having 100 killed). But the number of prisoners taken on this occasion by the POLISARIO -- 175 -- permits the supposition that for the royal armed forces the battle was even more deadly. On the 12th,

the Moroccans captured Dakhla, the capital of Tiris el-Gharbia. Mauritania protested against this "aggression" before withdrawing its administration, "a shameful, headlong flight, carried out in secret," commented Hassan II in Fez.

In Nouakchott, there is weariness, the almost obsessive worry about "getting out of one war only to get into another," in the prime minister's own words. And the problem remains unchanged, all the more so since the internal situation of Mauritania is ambiguous. Within the military committee there exists a (minority) group still close to Rabat. Elsewhere the temptation to exacerbate the ethnic antagonisms in Mauritania cannot be set aside. Therefore it is on Mr Ould Haydallah's ability to strengthen the cohesion of his team that the future depends.

Thus Mauritania remains more than ever the soft underbelly of the region, where adversaries will be tempted to strike. The writer Ahmed Baba Miske, author of "Front POLISARIO, l'Ame d'un Peuple" [POLISARIO, Soul of a People] published in Paris by Editions Rupture, contributes a viewpoint worthy of attention on this subject.

Problems Viewed as Resolvable

Paris DEMAIN L'AFRIQUE in French 27 Aug 79 p 33

[Article by Ahmed Baba Miske: "Mauritania Is Not Weak"]

[Text] The war in the Sahara is one of those absurd conflicts that cannot fail to revolt patriots in our Arab-African world, conscious of its dramatic backwardness compared to the general progress of humankind and of the flagrant inadequacy of the efforts and resources available to meet this major challenge as well as external threats of hegemony. How can the conflict be defused: that is the question that has been asked for four years.

I have always personally been a believer in the "Mauritanian way": dragged against its will into a war which was not its own, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania was to be the first one to come out of it (by giving up an ill-gotten territory and giving the friendship and solidarity of its closest brothers preference over it); thus it would open up new prospects in a deadlock situation.

The first part of the "prediction" has thus come true, and it is important. And what about the second one, the prospects for full solution of the conflict? It is still too soon to make out the paths leading to an outcome. On the face of it, the situation does not inspire optimism. The war is getting more radical, tougher, is turning into single combat between two adversaries with irreconcilable positions.

*See "Front POLISARIO l'Ame d'un Peuple," last chapter.

There is a choice between two possibilities, "each bitterer than the other," as the saying goes in our country: either a long and more and more deadly war (a long-range war of attrition at prohibitive cost to the army subjected to guerilla warfare, in this case Morocco); or else a generalized conflict, shorter perhaps but even more devastating.

However, here even more than elsewhere, first impressions, appearances, are not to be trusted. The conflicts most resistant to solution are often unblocked by unsuspected angles. And history is a restive mount; nice safe pathways are prepared for it, stones are cleared out of passes to save its hoofs, and there it goes bolting away and dashing toward abysses through the rocks, or galloping a flying carpet over the mountain tops. All the required conditions were present for the Mauritanian-Saharan agreement to lead to a very different situation. One year to the day after a change of regime, and after a long series of negotiations full of ups and downs and misunderstandings, Mauritania had agreed to accede to the POLISARIO's principal claim (which had been a stumbling block to everything until then): to promise to give back, within an agreed period of time, the part of the western Sahara which it administered. Thus it satisfied its principle partner, henceforward untroubled about its southern border, and sure of winning its case at last on that side, however long the conflict might last elsewhere. But it could also appease Rabat, at least for the time being, by combining skill and firmness; even if it retired from the war, nothing was changed for the moment, and it was leaving a period of time, an additional opportunity for seeking an over-all solution. Moreover, the OAU had just offered, at precisely the right time, a framework which greatly facilitated such a presentation. But the operation needed to be seen through to the end, on the Mauritanian side, with complete mastery. Unfortunately, it broke down, and Mauritania comes out of it bruised and flouted.

It is pointless to blame Morocco here: if one does not command respect, others do not make a gift of it. Certainly, Rabat acted completely illegally; with cynicism. Certainly the "allegiance of the 16 tribes" business is a pure hoax; the inhabitants of Tiris el-Gharbia do not want to be citizens of Morocco any more than the other Saharans are or want to be. (The presence of a few terrorized notables, of a few bribed traitors, of the sort that occupiers can recruit in any country, and of a "hired applause group" recruited elsewhere is worthless except for its propaganda value). But it was well carried out, and it was quite fair: it took in the ill-informed public in Morocco and elsewhere. At least for a while. Of course there will be the aftermath to bring things down a bit. Though for a while the regime can relax, having reglided its halo in public opinion after losing face at Monrovia and after the Algiers agreement, on the other hand, in the medium and long range it has doubled its military problems and the day to day cost, already so burdensome, of the war of attrition. A (political) respite of a few months (on the internal Moroccan level) bought at high cost, that is to say in exchange for an "invoice" that is twice as expensive for the human and economic "price" of war. Perhaps, too, a similar carry-over of another payment due: that of widening the conflict.

*And well served by the obligingness of the great international media.

The fact remains that from its own point of view the Moroccan government has carried out a profitable operation, to all appearances. It is its own business if it chooses to take care of the most urgent matters each time by mortgaging the future a bit more each time, and if it prefers to improvise brilliant but short-lived ripostes and rely on "baraka" [(just) enough] for the next dilemma.

As for Mauritania, it emerges with less glory. But it has acquired something precious: it is out of the war (despite the danger of spatters so long as the conflict is going on all around), and most of all, it has opened the way to reconciliation (with mutual respect for the independence and integrity of all) with the Saharan people. Besides, practically everybody is ready to find excuses for it: "What could it do in the face of Moroccan might?"; "its almost non-existent army"; "that poor weak country."

That is what I do not agree with. I reject on Mauritania's behalf this hypocritical and dangerous pity. Our folk wisdom says: "A man who is excused out of pity should not feel safe." And that is infinitely more true of nations and states.

What is more, the strength and weakness of states are very relative notions. For a long time now, those of any two given countries have not been a function of the mere mathematical relationship between their armed forces, their material resources, or their valor in combat. Deterrent capability, linked to the complex ensemble of regional and international strength relationships, is of prime importance. This idea has been popularized in particular with regard to nuclear arms. In fact, it is mainly political (politico-military) in essence. It is quite simple: to deter a more powerful potential aggressor, it suffices to be in a position to inflict on it damage likely to make it lose the war if it is combined with the damage that could be caused it by other adversaries already or likely to be at grips with it. Switzerland and Sweden proudly stood firm against the Third Reich, a hundred times more powerful than they.

Already at grips with the formidable Saharan resistance, which ties up a great part of its forces, obliged to guard the rest against Algeria, whose army is intact and which would not sit by with folded arms in the event of open aggression against Mauritania, Morocco could not afford the luxury of starting a third front. If it had known that Mauritania had made up its mind to resist, its "bluff" would have been cut short; it would not in any case have gone beyond Dakhla, from which it would have been difficult to expel it for the immediate future. The royal armed forces would never have risked being caught between two fires, on unfamiliar, hostile terrain, with terrible logistic problems.

Mauritania was indeed right not to want "to get out of one war only to get into another one." Unfortunately, the only way to prevent yourself being forced into a war is to be ready for one, that is to say, ready to respond, even if not to attack. In the words of the wise and peaceful Zouheir: "If you do not protect your drinking trough with your sword in your hand, it will

be trampled down before your very eyes. If you are not capable of attacking, you will eternally be oppressed."

The best way of being left in peace is not to show oneself peaceful "at all costs," but to prove that one also has "teeth," on the contrary, and that one is determined to use them if need be. It is an astonishing sight, but commonplace for anyone who can use his eyes: a weak country in distress does not arouse supportive impulses in others (other states), but provokes their instincts for domination. The world does not forgive you for being weak.

Now, Mauritania's geo-strategic trump cards may at least enable it to command respect: each of its partners has a major interest in not having it in opposition (even if it cannot have it on its side); it [Mauritania] holds the key to the regional balance of power in North-West Africa, and on that depends the balance of power in many Arab-African and international relationships.

Having said all this, the fact that I appear harsh toward Mauritania by no means denotes that I question the good will and patriotic convictions of the leadership, in particular those of Prime Minister Haydallah and the patriotic cadre and officers around him. And even if I do not believe that Mauritania is weak, I understand, obviously, that certain inadequacies are explained by the difficulties of a government confronting extremely serious problems ever since its inception, by the burdensome Daddah legacy, and by outside interference. But all that is not insoluble; experience is being gained, liabilities can gradually be reduced, and the external kept at a distance, if the internal front is strong. To tell the truth, what I fear most for this well intentioned team is mainly an internal danger which has already caused so much harm to the 10 July movement. It is up to itself to strengthen its cohesion, and it will come out of the test the greater. Around such a team all the forces in the nation should come together, forgetting their differences of all kinds, at least long enough to save the country, and at the same time spare this part of our continent serious new disturbances.

12149

CSO: LLO

MAURITANIA

LEADER OF COMMITTEE OF FREE OFFICERS INTERVIEWED

Casablanca MAROC SOIR in French 11-12 Aug 79 pp 1, 2

[Text] On Friday afternoon in Rabat the Mauritanian Islamic and Democratic Front announced its creation through the voice of Lieutenant Colonel Abdelkader, former minister of education in "Heidallah's" government.

Lieutenant Colonel Abdelkader, at the present time leader of the Committee of Free Officers, a wing of the new front, announced its creation to the national and international press in a large hotel in the capital and made the following statement during the press conference: "Our movement is implanted in the various agencies of the Mauritanian State, and in fact we have been set up for the past 2 months."

He explained that the Committee of Free Officers directing the resistance for the defense of the Mauritanian fatherland considers that the capitulation of the present leaders of the country will seriously damage the stability of the subregion and is a threat to the existence of the homeland.

"This irresponsible behavior by the leaders in Nouakchott, he continued, is equally shameful in so far as it betrays alliances and violates international accords."

Lieutenant Colonel Abdelkader considers that the Mauritanian people have been humiliated and their moral values flouted. If he became involved in the war without being consulted, as some take pleasure in saying, he did not choose to come out covered with shame.

In conclusion, Lieutenant Colonel Abdelkader considers that the Mauritanian people liked to live in peace "but not any peace."

Lieutenant Colonel Abdelkader was commanding officer of the Mauritanian air force under the regime of President Ould Daddah, special chief of staff of President Mustapha Ould Saleck and minister in charge of committee permanence.

Hereunder is the complete text of this interview:

[Question] What is the meaning of your presence in Rabat?

[Answer] I have a communique of great importance for the press following the latest events which have developed in regard to the Saharan problem.

[Question] Who represents this Committee of Free Officers?

[Answer] I do.

[Question] Are you a large group?

[Answer] Fortunately, yes, we are a fairly numerous group and it is growing, and this Committee of Free Officers who are directing the resistance are in fact only a wing of a front which is called "the Islamic and Democratic Front of Mauritania," which includes not only civilians but also servicemen, with ramifications in the interior of the entire country. This front has been active already and we are very satisfied with the results obtained.

[Question] We have never heard of this committee?

[Answer] This is the first time that its creation has been announced and it has been in operation for the past 2 months. I have been in Rabat for the past 48 hours.

[Question] Did you come from Mauritania?

[Answer] You know that in this work which I am undertaking and the responsibility I am assuming, I prefer to keep silent concerning my movements.

[Question] Are these free officers, these Mauritaniens of the Islamic and Democratic Front within the state agencies at the present time?

[Answer] Absolutely, they are everywhere inside Mauritania and in all the state agencies. But they have not declared themselves as yet. That is to say that our strategy enjoins us to keep somewhat silent as regards our organization for the time being at least.

[Question] What does the present government plan to do about Tiris Al Gharbia?

[Answer] I believe it has already clearly stated that it has no claims on Tiris Al Gharbia.

[Question] The Mauritanian minister of information has declared that Mauritania will not abandon Tiris Al Gharbia.

[Answer] You know this is not the first contradiction observed in this team. The Mauritanian Islamic and Democratic Front calls upon the present government to resign since it has failed.

[Question] Does the present government intend to withdraw from Tiris Al Gharbia?

[Answer] If one takes the government's declarations into consideration it has nothing more to do in Tiris Al Gharbia, to its partner's advantage, to whom it is bound by reason of its signature.

[Question] What are the general objectives of this front?

[Answer] The front considers that throughout the world Mauritania has always enjoyed a certain amount of prestige and admiration as well as a good reputation and we feel that these are purely and simply being destroyed. Therefore, the rehabilitation of these values is important to us and furthermore we feel that Mauritania has been engaged in a course which does not correspond to the aspirations of the Mauritanian people and this also concerns us, and our objective therefore is to restore Mauritania to its proper position.

[Question] When you mention restoring Mauritania to its proper place, do you mean or do you imply that former President Mokhtar Ould Daddah should return?

[Answer] I did not say that, Mokhtar Ould Daddah has certainly done a great deal for Mauritania, but when I say that Mauritania must regain its position, it does not mean that Mokhtar Ould Daddah must return bodily since in Mauritania there are many nationalists and patriots who are as cognizant as he is as to where the interests of Mauritania lie, and who will know as well as he does, if not better, how to guide the country towards the position which is its right in international planning.

[Question] What do you advocate as a solution for the Saharan problem?

[Answer] Indeed, the solution to the Saharan problem... It would be somewhat presumptuous for someone to tell you that he can define it at the moment you ask this question. Personally, I have confidence in man's intelligence and I also have confidence in wisdom. And I am sure that with concerted action and scrutiny of the real basic principles of the problem a solution will be found which will be acceptable to all the parties, since those who believe that they can obtain a partial peace are mistaken, as entering upon this course is to assume the responsibility of involving this region in a war of a magnitude which we had never known before.

[Question] However, the signatories of the Algiers agreement stated that peace will be permanent and not partial.

[Answer] The future will tell. Personally I am not convinced and I even consider it childish. It is flighty to waste time and commit oneself when facing such an intricate problem. However that may be, what saddens me personally is the fact that unfortunately Mauritania will pay the piper and

if our front is committed and determined to return it to its position it is only for the purpose of saving it from this catastrophe as soon as possible.

[Question] Is it just by accident that you chose this day to meet the press when the official Mauritanian delegation is in Rabat at this time?

[Answer] I can state that I did not plan it. I was passing through and I availed myself of the presence of the various press correspondents.

I am sorry that I did not bring a copy of the correspondence I addressed to the chairman of the committee. However, this is my second answer as my first one was made in Dakar on 23 June exactly. You know the contents "I resigned as I, who have served my country at the cost of grievous sacrifices, did not wish to subscribe to an action which promotes Mauritania's destruction" concluded Lieutenant Colonel Abdelkader.

7993

CSO: 4400

SAUDI ARABIA

BRIEFS

SOVIET OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS--The USSR, which attaches great importance to the development of its relations with Saudi Arabia, has obtained from Riyadh a formal agreement permitting overflight of Saudi territory by Soviet aircraft. The USSR now aims at establishing trade relations between the two countries. [Text] [Paris LE POINT in French 17 Sep 79 p 55]

CSO: 4800

BA'TH, UNIONIST PARTIES CALL FOR STRUGGLE TO TOPPLE NUMAYRI

Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 2 Aug 79 p 7

[Article: "Sudanese Ba'th and Democratic Unionist Parties Call for Escalating Struggle to Topple Numayri's Rule; Alliance of Two Parties Constitutes Fundamental Guarantee to Realize Sudanese People's Goals"]

[Text] The Socialist Arab Ba'th Party and the Democratic Unionist Party in Sudan have condemned Numayri's lackey regime, its policy of hostility toward the masses and their national and pan-Arab aspirations, its relinquishment of the national sovereignty and its subservience to world imperialism.

In a statement issued at the conclusion of talks held between them recently, the two parties asserted that the political, economic and social conditions in Sudan have reached a grave degree of deterioration under the canopy of Numayri's lackey regime which has completely and finally isolated itself from the masses and has turned into a regime on its deathbed.

The statement has pointed out that the failure of Numayri's regime to deal with the political and economic crisis to which it has led the country emanates from the regime's hostility toward the masses and toward their national and pan-Arab aspirations and from its connection with al-Sadat-Zionist-U.S. alliance that is hostile to the Arab nation and to the aspirations of its masses to regain all the usurped Arab territories.

The statement of the Socialist Arab Ba'th Party and the Democratic Unionist Party has added that the persistence of Numayri's lackey regime in antagonism toward our masses and toward their national and pan-Arab aspirations and the regime's adoption of the path of national and pan-Arab treason has been coupled with an escalation of the popular struggle rejecting the actions and policies of this regime. In addition to the intensification of the unionist demand movement, the staging of successful and magnificent strikes by several labor unions and the threat by the other labor unions to go on strike if their members' legitimate demands are not met, we find that the man in the street is living in an ever-escalating state of uprising which has reflected itself in numerous demonstrations throughout the Sudanese

cities. This has further intensified and deepened the regime's crisis. With greater organization, unity and solidarity between the labor union movement and the progressive national forces, the road will be open for them to overcome and topple the lackey regime and to set up the progressive national alternative.

The two sides have noticed with great satisfaction the harmony in the political line of the two parties and their strategic agreement. The two sides have also stressed that the alliance of the Democratic Unionist Party, with its broad masses and its historical leadership that is experienced in struggle and that has played a major role in confronting Numayri's regime, and the Socialist Arab Ba'th Party, with its deep struggle and organizational experience and with its pan-Arab organization, constitutes the fundamental guarantee for realizing this phase's goals.

The two sides have also underlined their extreme eagerness to strengthen the ties of unity between them through joint struggle action emanating from the common political background binding them together.

The statement has added that the Democratic Unionist Party and the Socialist Arab Ba'th Party in Sudan express, on the basis of the aforementioned, their absolute confidence in the unlimited struggle capabilities of the Sudanese popular and labor union movement and urge the masses to escalate and intensify their struggles, to bolster their unity and their solidarity in all the spheres and to use their struggle weapons, embodied in strikes, sit-ins and popular demonstrations, in the decisive battle they are waging currently.

Two delegations representing the Sudanese Socialist Arab Ba'th Party and the Democratic Unionist Party had held talks during which they reviewed the political conditions in Sudan and the duties and tasks of the popular movement in this important and serious phase of the history of the national struggle.

8494

CSO: 4802

OPPOSITION LEADER AL-MAHDI REVIEWS DOMESTIC, INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 11 Aug 79 pp 38-40, 45-46

[Interview With Sudanese Opposition Leader al-Sadiq al-Mahdi by Fu'ad Matar; Resumed Dialogue With Saudi Arabia and Renewed Contact With Khomeyni; Sadiq al-Mahdi: Kingdom's Position Toward Treaty Is Firm and Numayri Can Play Role Only If He Severs Relations With al-Sadat; Certain Arab Circles Exaggerate in Their View of Issues of Iranian Arabs and This Is Tantamount to Playing With Fire; Idi Amin Is Tyrant But This Does not Justify Tanzanian Invasion Because There Are Many Tyrants in Africa]

[Text] This interview with al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, who is distinguished by his agreement with President Numayri's regime and also distinguished by his reservations on some of this regime's inclinations, has twofold significance.

A month and a half ago, al-Sadiq paid a surprise visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia during which he resumed a dialogue that had been severed between himself and the Saudi regime for several years.

If we take into consideration the nature of the relations existing between this regime and President Ja'far Numayri--relations which President Numayri described in an interview we had with him a few months ago as "honey"--then the Saudi regime's reception of al-Sadiq al-Mahdi becomes of special significance because al-Sadiq continues to have his reservations on some of the inclinations of President Numayri's regime.

Even though al-Sadiq al-Mahdi prefers not to disclose what took place during his meeting with King Khalid in the presence of Prince Fahd, the crown prince, the session was not confined to the exchange of greetings. It covered certain matters in depth.

This is the first point of significance.

The second point of significance is that al-Sadiq al-Mahdi renewed with the Iranian revolution a dialogue which he had started at (Nouvelle Le Chateau) when he visited Imam Khomeyni before the latter returned to Iran triumphantly. A few days after his visit to Saudi Arabia, al Sadiq al-Mahdi

headed for Tehran, observed the Iranian revolution's situation closely and held meetings with a number of ayatollahs, beginning with Khomeyni. He returned with numerous of his viewpoints recorded in his diary.

[Question] What are the circumstances of your visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia? Was the visit an act to exert pressure on President Numayri who is not severing his relations with President al-Sadat?

[Answer] I was invited to visit the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on my way back to Sudan and I met there with the king, his crown prince and their aides. The kingdom is exerting noticeable efforts and is holding meetings with official and popular leaderships throughout the Islamic, Arab and African arena with the aim of uniting the positions against the capitulationist Egyptian-Israeli treaty and to assure everybody close and far that the kingdom's leadership is united in its position toward the treaty and that this position is undivided and indubitable.

My previous visit to the kingdom took place when I wanted to express my condolences on the death of honorably-remembered King Faysal. The latest visit was an opportunity to renew the contacts with the kingdom's notables--a contact which had been severed for a long time for well-known reasons.

During my stay in the kingdom, I had a broad opportunity to talk to the Saudi press, and through it to the Arab and Islamic public opinion, about the tribulation we are facing currently and about the means to confront it and overcome it. I believe that the sound stance lies at present in uniting all the ranks behind clinging to the usurped Arab right because all the differences and conflicts are less serious and effective than the stance toward Israel which is allied with the Egyptian regime--an alliance backed up by the United States.

Jordanian Symposium

[Question] What are the impressions with which you emerged from the Jordanian symposium?

[Answer] The Jordanian symposium was held at the invitation of the Jordanian Ministry of Awqaf, Islamic Affairs and Holy Places. It included official and popular delegations from most of the Islamic countries. The discussion dealt with two important issues: Islam's position toward the challenges of the age and what the Muslims should do to liberate Jerusalem.

Muslim thinkers and researchers presented important studies demonstrating the means for Islam to confront the intellectual, political, economic and social issues of the age. Those studies were discussed and resolutions were adopted. The resolutions are capable of creating a united Islamic public opinion free of the traditionalist view, i.e. the view which closed the gate of ijtihad [interpretation] and confined Islam's position to strict imitation of the predecessors, and a public opinion liberated from the

predecessors, and a public opinion liberated from the imitative view, i.e. the view that turned over the page of Islam and proceeded to imitate the west or the east in their thought and systems step for step and to the degree that if the east or the west enter the ruined hole of a lizard, this view will follow.

A council will be set up to follow up implementation of the symposium resolutions and this will contribute toward clarifying Islam's position vis-a-vis the challenges of the age, as well as toward providing Islamic solutions for our contemporary issues. Insofar as the issue of Jerusalem is concerned, detailed studies were presented on the conditions of the citizens in the occupied territories and on the Israeli policies seeking to isolate and subjugate them and to tie them to the Israeli economy, to deport some of them and seize their land and to deny them water resources so that they may not have an economic entity independent of the Israeli economy. The studies demonstrated how Israel is working to Judaize Jerusalem and to surround al-Aqsa Mosque which is encircled by Jerusalem. Those studies and clarifications enlightened the delegations and, through them, the Islamic public opinion everywhere. The symposium members adopted resolutions on the means to confront these evil plans. As a symposium, the meeting had no power, of course, to issue executive orders. But it did address its studies and recommendations to official and popular circles in the hope that they will adopt them.

The convocation of the symposium was a successful gesture because it was an endeavor by an Arab government to create a free atmosphere for some Islamic public opinion makers to participate with a freedom unshackled by diplomacy in discussing and studying the important issues and in submitting serious solutions for them. This is a step on the path of melting the ice between the governments and the people. One of the problems afflicting our societies at present is the current estrangement between the governments and the people and the absence of any opportunity for free dialogue. The press and publication in many of our countries are restricted and the governments reach understanding only with those who give them almost absolute support or with other governments. This only intensifies the causes of suspicion and estrangement between the rulers and the citizens.

Volcano-Like Revolution

[Question] What is the idea you have formed on the real situation experienced by the revolution in Iran after the week you spent in Tehran and Qom and after the contacts you had with a number of ayatollahs there?

[Answer] The Iranian revolution is a real volcano. Very regrettably, the Arab public opinion has not yet realized its dimensions whereas the world public opinion is aware of these dimensions and deals with the revolution accordingly, either positively or negatively. In my opinion, the revolution has numerous causes of which I will mention the most important, namely:

1. Alien Thought: The shah tried hard to give Iran a substitute identity, to make it turn its back to its Islamic identity, to resort to chauvinistic Arian origins and Iranian glories and to throw this neo-old identity into the arms of Europe and the United States, as Kemal Ataturk did in Turkey.

2. Alien Policy: This was the plan to create sacred loyalty to the shahan-shahist regime and to set up a political system that relies on the armed forces and the intelligence agencies internally and on the United States externally and to deal with the popular base as a backward sector for which plans are drawn up to make it catch up with the age according to the values, priorities and methods that please foreign experts. All this led to the alienation of the policy and to intensifying the shah's use of the Iranian force to defend foreign interests.

3. Alienation of Resources: This means the channelling of development according to priorities remote from the citizens' sentiments. Agriculture was neglected and basic food materials had to be imported whereas Iran used to export such materials previously. The plan to produce and market the natural resources also preceded according to the ideas of the foreign experts, thus creating industries that are actually the extension of bases in Europe and the United States and developing a consumer society relying totally on importation. Military spending predominated on the basis that it was geared toward international considerations and not considerations of the Iranian national security.

These actions entrenched the differences between the regime and its supporters from among the citizens and the foreigners--all of whom the revolution uses the Koranic word "the false god" to describe--on the one hand and the broad popular base, which the revolution uses the Koranic word "the oppressed" to describe, on the other hand.

The alien thought, policy and resources are the three strong motives for the Iranian revolution. These motives are present in varying degrees in other Islamic countries and this gives the Iranian revolution a broad role.

The revolution's measures have proceeded in the direction of eliminating this trilateral alienation and of dealing with the intellectual alienation through Islamic affiliation; the political alienation through consultation, through the leadership's proximity to the base and through opening the atmosphere for freedom and democracy and adopting an independent foreign policy; and the alienation of resources through reconsidering the development, bases and priorities and through the fair distribution of wealth to help the oppressed.

There is behind these three goals an enormous popular thrust that supports the leadership of Imam Ayatollah Khomeyni. This thrust is the force that plucked the feathers of the deposed shah one after the other when it applied the methods of civil insubordination, when it marched in unprecedented popular demonstrations and when it confronted the shah's forces, offering one martyr after another. This thrust explains the tremendous wave of mobilization being experienced by the Iranian people currently.

The question that occurs to the mind of the concerned is: Is there a capable cadre that can transform this wave of mobilization into systems and establishments? Is there a program capable of transforming the goals and the thrust backing them into accomplishments? These are the two questions for which the answers will be provided in future days, keeping in mind that these questions pursue every revolution with as tremendous dimensions as those of the Iranian revolution.

But there are the following pitfalls:

1. How can the traditional religious leadership which played a leading revolutionary role be reconciled with the other political leaderships that are united with it in goals?
2. How can the revolution's Shi'ite starting points be preserved while preserving the revolution's identity as an Islamic revolution unrestricted by sectarian shackles?
3. How can the revolution proceed in its comprehensive direction and overcome national conflicts?
4. How can an independent national foreign policy be crystallized and how can the snares of the game of nations be avoided?

I met a large number of the revolution, state, party and press leaders in Iran and my impression is that they are aware of these pitfalls and are determined to overcome them.

Whatever the pitfalls and the problems, there are things that have been accomplished by the Islamic revolution in Iran and by which this revolution has changed the Middle East situation:

First, the introduction of Islam to the international arena as a revolutionary call to destroy the false gods and to help the oppressed.

Second, exposing the weakness of the regimes based on the alienation of thought, policy and resources and demonstrating that they are a paper tiger in the face of popular mobilization, regardless of how strong their weapons and their foreign support are.

Third, the revolution leadership's commitment to a course open to the masses, in addition to austere behavior. The sight of the man holding Khosrau's throne sitting on the floor and following the example of [caliphs] 'Umar and 'Ali is a sight that makes you tremble.

Fourth, the strategic enemy of our nation played the card of the alleged conflict between the Islamic position, then represented by Iran, Turkey and other countries, and the Arab position vis-a-vis the Palestinian issue. The Iranian revolution has toppled the mainstays of this alleged conflict

and has restored the situation to normalcy. What has happened in Palestine is an aggression against the Palestinian people, a violation against Arabism and a sacrilege against the Islamic nation's sanctities.

Arab Plan and al-Sadat's Plan

[Question] How do you view the Arab plan needed to confront the plan of President al-Sadat's regime?

[Answer] There has been in Egypt a trend that preceded al-Sadat and that was preached by intellectuals and political leaders. This trend is to the effect that Egypt is a country that belongs to Europe through the Mediterranean Sea and that the Egyptian people have a deep-rooted history that precedes Islam and Arabism and that qualifies them to be a part of Europe.

This trend was countered by other trends advocated and adopted by intellectuals and politicians. These trends are the Islamic trend, the Arab trend and the African trend.

Under the reign of the late President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir, the state focused on establishing and bolstering the Arab affiliation of Egypt. When the present Egyptian president assumed the leadership, he found that sectors of the Egyptian public opinion were ready to support and back him if he turned his back to Nasirism. He has done so and has based the edifice of his glory on his countering the actions and policies of President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir. His turning away from Arabism has been helped by a feeling which spread among some circles of the Egyptian public opinion--a feeling opposed to the Arabs and upset with the wealth in their possession.

Proceeding on the basis of this background, al-Sadat's policy marched along the line of winning the U.S. support and of concluding a separate peace with Israel so as to establish a new system in the Middle East--a system that deals with the Arab nation as a backward sector dominated partly by Israel and partly by Egypt, both of whom cooperate with South Africa that dominates the southern and central parts of the Black Continent, thus creating a tripartite alliance all of whose components are "a part of Europe." For this to be done right, the Egyptian ruling class has to create for its self chauvinistic supremacist (compared to the Arabs) concepts similar to the supremacy of the (Ashkenazim) in Israel and the white minority in South Africa. What is a surprising coincidence in this regard is that a new book entitled "The Thirteenth Clan" by Arthur Koestler, a Jewish scientist, has been published. The book contains a complete study on al-Khazar Sultanate which adopted Judaism in the eighth century A.D. The study points out that these al-Khazars were from Eurasian origins, like the Magyars, that their sultanate flourished and adopted Judaism and then collapsed in the face of the Mogul invasion and that its people dispersed in various parts of Eastern Europe. The study also points out that the East European Jews come from these origins and are not the sons of Abraham.

The rise of an Egyptian-Israeli-South Africa axis would have been possible a century ago. But with the awakening of peoples today, this axis has been born dead. What truly arouses astonishment is that a superpower like the United States is heedless of this shining fact and is trying to breathe life into a dead body. This is an endeavor from which the United States will only gain the wrath of the Islamic, Arab and African nations.

The primary accomplishment of the united Arab will is that, regardless of how different the interpretations are, all the Arabs are in agreement on defeating al-Sadat's policy and on completely isolating his regime. This in itself is a great accomplishment because Egypt's status would have permitted al-Sadat to sow sedition among the Arab ranks as he has sown sedition among important circles in Egypt. The next step requires the Arab ranks to rally behind a comprehensive plan to achieve the following:

1. Support the PLO to continue its liberation efforts and participate with this organization through volunteers so as to expand the confrontation base.
2. Bolster the steadfastness of the citizens in the occupied territories with all the various means.
3. Build the eastern front to turn it into a deterrent force.
4. Work with all the means to contain the Lebanese crisis and then to fill the Lebanese gap so as to block the path in the face of Israeli expansion.
5. Build the Arab military capabilities according to a unified plan that achieves steadfastness and works to restore the strategic balance. If Israel possesses a nuclear deterrent, then it is inevitable [for this force] but to possess a similar deterrent.
6. Draw up a comprehensive plan to utilize the Arab oil and financial capabilities in the interest of the cause and to tip the international balance in favor of the usurped right.
7. Eliminate all the concepts of fabricated contradiction between the Islamic position and the Arab position and pay attention to the developments in the Islamic position because it is growing steadily (the Iranian revolution and the possibilities in Turkey).
8. Deal with the issues of war and peace on the basis of the intrinsic capabilities. Peace cannot be established unless owners of the lost right are strong and war cannot be won unless the fighters are strong.

If the Arab will fails to draw up and implement a strategy similar to this, the movement of history will go on and will blow away the current Arab reality. The security of a regime in any country is not measured by the volume of weapons it stores in its arsenals but by the degree of its keeping up with the movement of history.

Eastern Front

[Question] During the convocation of the Jordanian symposium, you met with King Husayn and some prominent figures in the Jordanian royal court and you must have discussed the current situation of the eastern front. What is your evaluation of this situation and will the Syrian-Iraqi unity, for which efforts are being currently made, provide sufficient fortification for this front?

[Answer] I have been pleased with the news of the creation of the united Iraqi-Syrian political command and on the inclination toward full unity between the two countries and I have cabled my congratulations to both sides. But it seems that the realization of this major unionist goal is still stumbling in the face of the well-known obstacles. But whatever these obstacles, agreement between the two countries on minimal joint action has become an ultimate national necessity. The explosive conditions in Lebanon paralyze a part of the Syrian forces. With the capitulation of the Egyptian front, the importance of the Syrian-Iraqi cooperation is escalating.

In my opinion, the Aleppo incidents are a plot carried out by traitors planted in the ranks of the Syrian Ba'th Party because the man who ordered the non-partisan students to leave the place is the alternate party official at the college who was entrusted with this task to open a hot domestic front in Syria. The ruling regimes in the Islamic countries are required to understand the dynamic nature of the modern Islamic revival and the peoples' thirst for participation and for democratic rights and are required to realize the largest degree possible of national unity on the path of understanding these factors and of dealing with them positively.

There is the likelihood of an Iranian-Iraqi conflict and there may be among the Iranian leaders those who want to touch off this conflict, such as Rohani. But the responsible leadership in Iraq is required to consider the following possibilities: The Islamic revolution in Iran has a number of options. The best option is the one to which the revolutionary leadership there is clinging, namely to have the revolution as a rejuvenating Islamic revolution that overcomes with Islam the sectarian and national pitfalls and marches with Islam toward confronting the Israeli aggression. There is another option toward which an eruption of the national Arab-Persian conflict and the sectarian Sunni-Shi'ite conflict may push this leadership. The eruption of such conflicts may lead to an alliance between some of the religious leaderships and some of the military elements in Iran who may transform the situation from one of popular revolutionism to a kind of Bonapartism geared toward chauvinistic Iranian goals. Iran may thus change the priorities of its hostility and hostility toward the Arabs and the Sunna, rather than hostility toward Zionism and imperialism, may become the supreme hostility. If this happens, it will be the largest loss inflicted upon our nation since the rise of Israel.

Preserving the gain made by our nation with the Islamic character of the Iranian revolution and bolstering the eastern front are two achievable goals if the Iraqi-Iranian relations are founded on a basis of cooperation and good neighborliness. The logic of the conviction that Israel is the number one and most important enemy requires that all other considerations be subjected to this conviction.

Some irresponsible Arab circles may have adopted an exaggerated concept of the issues of the population of southwest Iran which comes from an Arab extraction. But this is tantamount to playing with fire and can only be beneficial to raising the chances of the chauvinist option in Iran. The Arab inhabitants of this area are, contrary to what has been disseminated, Shi'ites and their leader is Ayatollah Mohammad Khomeini. This area is rich with oil and Iran will not condone its separation, whatever the price. It is true that these inhabitants and others suffered bitter oppression in the hands of the shah and that the time has now come to do them justice, to release their cultural liberties, to liberate their local administration and to give them a generous share of the development and of the services. But whatever exceeds these demands is tantamount to playing with fire and improves the chances of the chauvinistic military option. This is precisely what Israel, and those who are behind it and who have been scared by the vitality of Islam and have begun to lay the snares of sectarian and national sedition, aspire for.

Bolstering the eastern front is a major strategic task and it is fully hoped that the political leaderships concerned will succeed in achieving this goal. I believe that brother Col Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi's latest visit to the Arab East has contributed toward focusing the attention on bolstering and expanding the eastern front to achieve quadrilateral Syrian-Iraqi-Jordanian-Palestinian cooperation. If achieved, this cooperation is capable of containing the Lebanese crisis, strengthening Syria and fortifying the eastern front.

Arabs and Energy Crisis

[Question] You must be keeping up with the controversy over the energy issue and with the statements that the United States will interfere militarily in the oil sources. What is your evaluation of these developments?

[Answer] The U.S. policy is responsible for generating the energy crisis. In 1959, the oil companies were [afraid] of the competition of the prices of imported oil in their domestic markets and they compelled President Eisenhower's administration to limit the quantities of oil imported to the United States. President Eisenhower imposed the limitation which amounted to 12 percent of the total U.S. consumption. This measure weakened the demand for oil and its prices dropped, thus urging the producers to organize themselves and to defend the prices of their products. So they formed the OPEC in 1960.

The United States was not able to maintain this situation and its excessive oil consumption compelled it to increase oil imports endlessly and to the degree that the United States, which now comprises five percent of the world's population, now consumes 40 percent of the world's oil. As a result of this excessive consumption, the international oil market demand currently exceeds the supply by 2 million barrels daily.

As long as the demand exceeds the supply, the price will rise, regardless of what the producers decide. In the period preceding the latest oil price increase (last June-July), the official price per barrel was \$14.55 but the companies were selling the barrel at the Rotterdam bourse at double or triple that price!

So as to get oil for itself, the United States decided to increase the price for importers by \$5 per barrel, i.e. the United States is the side that raised the price per barrel before the OPEC organization did.

The U.S. administration has become aware of the role of the U.S. extravagance in creating the energy crisis and President Carter did draw up a plan to curtail consumption but the U.S. congress defeated the plan. Instead of persisting in his goal, President Carter heeded the advice of some of his aides who have turned the OPEC into the sacrificial lamb and have considered the organization the enemy responsible for sabotaging the international industrial economy. These aides tried to persuade the Europeans to cooperate with them to set up an organization of consumers to counter the producers organization but the Europeans declined this. A number of U.S. officials then proceeded to make statements to the effect that the oil owners must sell their oil at the prices that the United States considers reasonable or else the oil wells will be occupied. The Europeans denounced this threat and considered it harmful to the entire issue. They besieged the U.S. President at the Tokyo meeting and told him that the United States is extravagant in its oil consumption, that this extravagance causes the oil prices to rise and that the U.S. administration is incapable of formulating a decisive policy to restrain the greedy U.S. consumption because the Congress obstructs all its measures in this regard. The U.S. President pledged to do something decisive in this regard.

The U.S. policy is responsible for the oil price increases for the following three important reasons:

First, the high, ever-increasing and extravagant U.S. consumption that constantly raises the demand.

Second, the United States detached the value of the U.S. dollar from gold in 1971 to force the world to finance the Vietnam war and the deficit in its balance of payments. One of the results of this action has been the constant drop in the dollar value and the oil producers have been raising their prices steadily to make up for the drop in the dollar value.

Third, the U.S. policy's support for Israel and for its aggression have provided the justification for using the oil weapon.

The utilization of natural resources and of economic forces for political purposes is something that all countries do and that the United States uses heavily. The United States is currently linking commercial facilities for Russia with Russian permission of Jewish emigration. The Jewish immigration to Israel is one of the strong factors causing the Israeli expansionism.

The current energy crisis will last for a time because the demand for oil is rising and because finding alternative sources of energy is not easy in the near future. This gives the oil producers a distinguished position and vast monetary resources. The fact is that these two distinguished positions have not yet been used in a planned and comprehensive manner to achieve the Arab nation's legitimate demands.

There are sound and legitimate goals. A comprehensive and well-studied plan must be drawn up to achieve these goals, namely:

1. Liberation of the occupied Arab territories.
2. Restoration of the Palestinian people's right to repatriation and self-determination.
3. The creation of a better and fairer international economic, commercial and financial system to encourage the development of the developing countries.

The strategic resources, especially oil, are no mere commercial loan and the revenues produced by the sale of oil is no mere commercial asset. Experts and politicians in the consumer countries examine the broad dimensions of these issues and draw up complete plans for them. On the other hand, there are no plans on the part of the producers compatible with the importance of oil and with the importance of the financial movement of its value. This flaw must be corrected.

Commotion [al-tafa'ulat] in Black Continent

[Question] What, in your opinion, is the cure for the commotion experienced by the African Continent?

[Answer] In the face of the Arab blockade, Israel tried to establish for itself foreign relations with which to counter this blockade. So, it knocked on the back door of the Arab East and headed for Africa to build friendships and bridges. It did achieve relative success but then lost all its gains because of its aggressiveness and its alliance with South Africa.

Following Israel's course, al-Sadat's regime is trying to find for itself an inlet through the African door to counter the Arab blockade. But this

regime has not succeeded. The security situation forced him to go armored, as if invading Liberia, and then to face an African position unprepared to accept his bilateral treaty.

The Arab nation has the following strong and fundamental ties in Africa: The tie of Islam, the tie of culture--a number of important African languages are derived from Arabic (the Housa, Swahili, Somali, etc)--the historical and geographical ties and the economic interests.

Africa is experiencing today fundamental and fateful movements. There is the historical struggle between the white minority and black majority in the continent's central and southern parts. In this regard, the Arab nation cannot but align itself with the black majority because this is right and just and because the white minority is the naturel ally of Israel.

In the Horn of Africa, there is currently a tremendous historical struggle among the Horn's nationalities. Some of the Arab regimes have gotten involved in this struggle, taking sides with certain nationalities against others in an unsound and futile manner. The Arab countries must reconsider their policies toward the Horn of Africa in the direction of achieving a just settlement among the nationalities in this part and with the aim of neutralizing the activities of the super powers and of shutting the door in the face of Israel so that it may not create relations through the conflicts of the nationalities.

In East Africa, there is an important historical struggle that has centered unjustifiably around the person of Idi Amin. Idi Amin is a tyrant surrounded by other tyrants in numerous African countries. President Nyerere has wished to use Idi Amin's tyranny as a justification for invading Amin's country and for directing a Crusader war against the Muslims there. The solution is to denounce the invasion of one country by another, regardless of the justifications, to reach agreement on the African man's rights, to declare a charter by which the African countries abide and to create an instrument through which to impose the charter and to bring the various states to account. Among the most important things to be achieved by such a charter are: The freedom and dignity of the African citizen and guaranteed religious freedom.

In West Africa, there are important historical developments that signal the end of the role of military domination and an opening toward democratic rights. In Nigeria, there have been general elections based on avoiding the gaps that obstructed democracy in the past. In Ghana, there is the indication that the coup whirlwind is consuming itself and that there is ultimately no way out except through democratic openness.

In all parts of Africa, there is constant aspiration for economic development and social justice.

The question that poses itself now is: Can the Arab will deal with Black Africa through the aforementioned historical currents existing in the various regions of Africa: In the south, in the Horn, in the east and in the west? Can this will participate effectively in African development?

The spheres of struggle against Israel and its new ally are numerous, the most important being the African and the Asian spheres. In both spheres, the Arab nation enjoys strong spiritual, cultural and historical relations that are important, if used well.

Situation in Sudan

[Question] We now come to the current situation in Sudan. What is new and what is the true nature of your relations with Samuel (Aro), who has been accused by President Numayri of having planned for a coup?

[Answer] The economic situation has reached a very difficult phase. Since the time when the reconciliation talks started, we have been underlining the important point on which agreement must be reached, namely the point of correcting the course of development and of revitalizing the economic situation. For this purpose, we have submitted a well-studied memorandum that defines the means of correction and revitalization but nothing practical has taken place. When a debate took place on the development problems and on the economic situation, I published a year ago a four-part summary of the said memorandum in AL-SAHFAH. Some of the facts on which the memorandum focused were that our economy is suffering from the following:

1. Production is below standard and its rates must be raised.
2. Spending is beyond what we can afford. It must be reduced and its priorities must be reconsidered.
3. The economic management is scattered and must be unified and strengthened to manage the economy firmly and as if it were a war economy.
4. Inflation is crushing. The prices must be stabilized, the market must be controlled and the supply bottlenecks must be eliminated.
5. The rising costs of living, the expanding civil service and the group aspirations require that a well-studied plan be drawn up and that the various groups participate in it to organize the wages, salaries and privileges of civil servants so that they may be fair and rewarding in comparison with the costs of living.
6. Development cannot be realized unless certain assumptions are realized. Therefore, the obstacles in the path of development must be removed out of eagerness to realize those assumptions.

These and other opinions have not been adopted.

Under the pressure of the situation, the government adopted a plan to correct the civil service. But not all the sides concerned took part in this plan and this made it incomplete. When implementation of the plan started, it became evident that it would cost more than 350 million pounds and not 75 million pounds. It also became evident that the job classification pleased some and angered others. The government found itself facing a critical situation: If it implements the plan it will face an economic catastrophe because of the insistence of some groups on changing their situation to counter the rapid rise in the costs of living.

The government decided to implement the first half of the correction plan and this cost it nearly 159 million pounds which it tried to acquire by raising taxes. This led to a sharp rise in prices and a severer bottleneck in supplies. These tax increases are what led to a sharp debate over the Sudanese budget--a sharp debate unprecedented in Sudan under the present regime. A number of deputies were able to expose freely the drawbacks in the budget and the deteriorating management of the country's economy.

The country is now experiencing a sharp economic crisis, a crisis in supply and a state of tension regarding the possible and just action on job emendation, new taxes, the enormous increase in prices and and the disappearance of food supplies. All this cannot be dealt with except through reforming the policies, the establishments and the individuals.

This is insofar as the economic situation is concerned. As for the political situation, we have believed and we continue to believe that no fundamental reforms have been introduced to the political, constitutional and legal system to guarantee democratic rights and liberties. Any changes confined to individuals will not bring about effective participation and will, consequently, leave the citizens in their current state of division vis-a-vis the regime's establishments and policies.

In the sphere of foreign policy, the sharp disagreement over the Camp David treaty has subsided somewhat because the regime has moved a little closer to the Arab position. We believe that Sudan has an Arab role and an African role and that it cannot perform both roles unless it rids itself finally of any connection with the Egyptian regime's positions because Sudan's connection with the Egyptian regime, though it has weakened, paralyzes its movement. If it proposes an Arab summit (as President Numayri has done), the Arab states ignore the proposal for fear that it may be a Sadatist trick. If it dispatches envoys to establish contact with the Iranian revolution, people whisper that Sudan is mediating in the interest of al-Sadat, as did actually happen when President Numayri sent a message recently to Imam Khomeyni. The Iranian press (namely IRAN WEEK) said that Numayri was mediating in the interest of al-Sadat.

There is also something new concerning the oil issue. The company prospecting for oil has announced in its regular statements that there is oil in Sudan. But when will this oil be pumped? Are the quantities commercial?

When will the oil yield revenues? These are matters that have not been decided yet. The situation of the Sudanese economy is so urgent that it does not permit waiting. Even when the oil yields revenues, it will not realize a definite interest for our people if not preceded by an improvement in the economic management and by a reconsideration of the spending priorities so that these revenues may not go to waste, as other revenues have.

There is something new in the southern arena. The problems of the south lead, in my opinion, to three things: The presence of conflicting currents, very sharp tension in the economic situation and the flow of Ugandan refugees, carrying with them political concepts and human problems.

The political struggle among the southern currents has escalated. I have learned from a speech delivered by President Numayri that a southern leader sent me a conspiratorial message. The intended leader, as announced, is Samuel (Aro). Samuel Aro is a friend and I have considered him and a number of other brothers friends since the honorably-mentioned late William (Deneg) was alive. What I know about brother Samuel is that he is against military coups and against violence. I do not know the details of what was written in the said message because I have not received this message which may have been given to another person who gave it to the Sudanese security. I personally do not believe that Samuel could get involved in the question of coups. His said message must be understood within the framework of the conflicts currently existing in southern Sudan. These are conflicts that can be settled only through an open approach and within a democratic framework.

Our country's problems are numerous and entangled and an examination of these problems leads one to be aware of two facts:

1. Failure to confront these problems decisively and fundamentally has caused them to get more entangled and to deteriorate gravely.
2. One of the positive aspects of the national reconciliation is the fact that the Sudanese discuss these problems frankly and freely and in safety from the whirlwind of violence and oppression. This remaining positive aspect may perhaps be the chance available to the Sudanese to find a peaceful solution to save the country.

Islamic Platform and Quiet Fasting

[Question] Does this mean that you still prefer to keep away and to stay in London?

[Answer] I have been active in the Islamic, Arab and African spheres and I will continue this activity through visits, meetings, conferences and seminars.

Moreover, our arena is going through an important historical phase. The national thought is receding. The western and communist thought is retreating in the face of new facts and the Islamic thought is lost between the stagnation of the traditionalists and the ridicule of the imitators who believe that the best thing they can do with Islam is to leave it alone and neglect it and to import thought from the west or from the east.

I believe that Islam can offer generously to our age and to our conditions but this offering lacks demonstration. I have offered some pamphlets, lectures and speeches for this purpose. But I intend now to offer a platform to be called the awakening platform from which I will publish a series addressing the following issues:

1. Islam and the contemporary revolution.
2. Islam and the modern state.
3. Islam and modern economy.
4. Islam and the contemporary society.
5. Islam and foreign relations.
6. The concept of development and revolution in Islam.

Naturally, this series may generate other topics concerned with education and with the other important issues.

This platform will not restrict itself to addressing only those who accept Islam but will address people generally. The message of Islam has been and continues to be a comprehensive and non-sectarian message.

I will exert efforts to present this series. As for anything else, I am now returning to Sudan and I look forward to finding the opportunity to fast Ramadan in a Sudanese village where there is solitude and tranquility.

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FARMERS DELAY PLANTING, CRISIS AVERTED AS STRIKE ENDS

Increased Production Incentive

Kartoum AL-SAHFAH in Arabic 26 Jul 79 p 1

[Text] The beginning of the noble month of Ramadan coincides with the time for the planting of cotton in the al-Jazirah and al-Manaqil Project, in an area estimated at 540,000 feddans, which is an increase of 30,000 feddans over last year's figure.

Dr 'Abdullah Ahmad 'Abdullah, the minister of agriculture, food supplies, and natural resources told the Sudan News Agency [SUNA] that this increase is taking place in accordance with the program of economic consolidation and financial reform, in an effort to enhance the contribution of this great project toward our economy and toward increasing our volume of exports. And his excellency assured that the level of preparation for this harvest is much better than last year because of continual efforts that have been made. Deep plowing of a larger area has been completed, and the farmers have been provided enough fertilizer to use at least twice on the land, as opposed to last season when there was only enough to use one time for most of the area. His excellency said that the scattering of fertilizer, by machine, over most of the project's area has already been completed, and that this will have a positive effect toward increasing production. Also, the spraying of weed-killers, mixed with fertilizer, has been completed on an area of 400,000 feddans.

The minister of agriculture announced that a production incentive will be adopted to aid this season's crop which has been provided with reasonable requirements. He said that "we are hoping that, with the farmers' efforts, the overall average production of the project will be above the figure decided upon, after which the increased production incentive will be applied, in which case the farmer's share of the profits will increase, and the government's share will decrease. This is to be an incentive for the productive farmer, and is a new feature in production relationships which provides the farmer with an incentive to increase his production."

His excellency added that all of this is in addition to the new gains increasing the cotton farmer's net profits after the new tax reforms which eliminated the export tax on cotton and began giving special prices for the export of cotton, setting the price of cotton for the local industries at the export rate, and setting the price of cottonseed at the market rate, such that the price of cottonseed for the producer went up from 33 to 55 and then to 75 pounds a ton during the last 3 years, and this shows an equitable increase for the producers. His excellency said that "all of these policies and positive measures have been a result of tax reform and economic and investment policies which lend support to this economic consolidation and financial reform, for the sake of justice to the producers and in order to continue the process of development which was decided upon by our political, popular, and constitutional government organizations."

He said that the reform plan for increasing the al-Jazirah Project's productivity, the preparation of which has been carried out by a delegation from the World Bank, will have a definite effect during the next 1980-81 season.

And his excellency directed an appeal to the farmers in al-Jazirah and al-Manaqil to shoulder their responsibilities toward their families and toward the national economy and toward building it up. And our leader, the president, had already promised the farmers of al-Jazirah and al-Manaqil a radical reform in this plan, and now he is keeping his promise and obligating us to respond to this with our gratitude, efforts, and continuous striving.

The minister of agriculture concluded his statement by saying: "Planting a cotton crop is an integral agricultural process which involves exact timing and coordination, and any neglect of it produces negative results which do harm to the farmers and to the national economy."

Warning Against Not Planting

Khartoum AL-SAHAFAH in Arabic 29 Jul 79 p 1

[Text] Dr 'Abdullah Ahmad 'Abdullah, the minister of agriculture, food supplies, and natural resources, urged the farmers of al-Jazirah and al-Manaqil to continue their efforts and finish planting the cotton crop. All of its initial agricultural processes--the plowing, soil improvement, drainage, and the scattering of fertilizer and weed-killers--have been completed, and at a cost of 13 million pounds.

The minister of agriculture referred to the official dialogue which took place between the political and executive leadership and the Executive Bureau of the Farmer's Union of al-Jazirah and al-Manaqil and which obliges everyone to respect it and to act according to what was said in it.

All of this was in the following statement which was made by the minister yesterday:

"At this period of time in the planting season in the al-Jazirah Project everything necessarily diminishes in importance compared to the utmost priority of planting the cotton at the time which has been fixed according to well-known agricultural principles, which the farmers, more than anyone else, are aware of. This means that any delay in the planting will have negative consequences for the average production figures. Agriculturally it has been proven by experience that if the date for planting the cotton is postponed from 25 July 1979 to 15 August, the result will be a clear decline in production, and this will hurt both the farmer and the national economy. Actually, already there has taken place the plowing, the soil improvement, the drainage, the scattering of the fertilizer in sufficient quantities, and the scattering of weed-killers. The cost of all of this land preparation has been more than 13 million pounds. These are costs which were assumed by the government and invested in the land in preparation for a crop, the production of which we are in dire need, in order to bolster our exports and strengthen policies to which we have all committed ourselves. All of these costs must not be allowed to have been in vain and unjustified. Faced with this national responsibility we are obliged to take administrative measures which will guarantee using these resources. And it is necessary that the farmers realize their responsibilities in view of all this.

"This season they have actually already planted beans in an area estimated at 218,000 feddans, and the entire profit will go to the farmers alone. And they have planted 317,000 feddans of corn, with irrigation given to them free of charge, and the whole crop will be theirs. So why should the farmer be allowed to refrain from planting cotton, which is the crop that is accepted as being the one which completes the agricultural cycle? And this is at a time when the administration has undertaken all the preparations, and the government has provided all the prerequisites for production of the crop. At this point I want to emphasize that these crops cannot be separated, because they constitute a single agricultural cycle to be taken as a whole in the framework of a partnership which is based on obligations and calculating the shares.

"The farmers have already, before the current planting season, received an advance loan of 5 pounds per feddan--the total loan being 2 1/2 million pounds--in an effort to help the farmers meet some of the planting requirements.

"The tools of production in al-Jazirah and al-Manaqil must not be allowed to remain idle while there are those who are both needed and willing to work. And one must also consider the investment involved in these vast means of production.

"The official dialogue which the political and executive leadership conducted with the Executive Bureau of the Farmers' Union of al-Jazirah and al-Manaqil must be respected by all parties. The farmers know that any agreement made with the Executive Bureau must be carried out and is legally binding. The Executive Bureau has responded by calling off the strike and calling for the planting to begin immediately. Those who do not respond to this call will

be harming their own interests and the national economy to a degree that is tantamount to sabotage. I consider our brothers, the farmers, to be above causing the destruction of the Sudanese economy, since they are the ones who build it and protect it. I urge that your single priority in al-Jazirah and al-Manaqil be the planting of the cotton, without paying any heed to voices who are against it."

Farmers' Demands Met

Khartoum AL-SAHAFAH in Arabic 29 Jul 79 p 1

[Text] Yesterday the National Farmers' Union of the Sudan issued an announcement to all the farmers in al-Jazirah and al-Manaqil in which it was stated that the Sudanese Farmers' Union, which participated in a meeting with the Central Committee of the Farmers' Union of al-Jazirah and al-Manaqil on 4 July of this year, urges our brothers, the farmers, to immediately go to work in their fields, since all of their demands have been met. The principal demands were:

"A postponement in the collection of the water fees. They will not be collected unless the farmers agree to it--through their executive bureau--with the minister of agriculture. This means that the matter has become subject to their participation and approval.

"Granting producers an export incentive for cotton, totaling 25 percent.

"Elimination of the cotton export tax, which totals 10 percent.

"Sale of the cotton to local factories at world prices, and not as was the practice previously.

"Exemption of the materials used in agricultural production, such as fertilizer, extermination materials, sackcloth, agricultural machines, and spare parts, from the defense tax.

"Giving the agricultural producers, for the first time, an increased production incentive, which begins to be applied after the production of a minimum of 4 qintars /i.e., about 400 lbs./.

"Previous setting of the price of beans for all producers in the Sudan. The minimum price per qintar, not in bags, in al-Jazirah is 430 piasters when the field is handed over.

"Eliminating price supports from the commodity of flour will give the Sudanese wheat producers a greater share to be gained from its price, and most of the wheat producers are farmers in al-Jazirah and al-Manaqil.

Farmers Must Assume Responsibility

Khartoum AL-SAHAFAH in Arabic 30 Jul 79 p 3

/Text/ The Farmers' Union of the Sudan made a statement yesterday in which it supported the appeal of the Farmers' Union of al-Jazirah and al-Manaqil by calling upon the farmers to immediately go to their fields.

The statement made by the Farmers' Union of the Sudan and the statement made by the Farmers' Union of al-Jazirah and al-Manaqil both stem from the same motive, which is the desire, on the part of both unions, to protect the interests of the farmers and of the Sudan, and to prevent them from being harmed. The two statements are objective, and they base their appeal on the singling out of the reasons which caused the farmers to stop their work and then assuring that all of the demands, which they had made on behalf of the farmers, have already been met, and that consequently there is no reason for them not to go to their fields and start the work of the new planting season.

There is one firm fact which the farmers must be completely aware of, and that is that the old game of politics is gone forever, and is past history. The profit resulting from the farmer's sweat and toil no longer goes to prominent families which we know, and no longer serves a class of parasites who suck up the profit from the farmer's labor, causing the poor to become poorer and the rich to become richer.

This is a period of time which has ended, and the stage that we are experiencing now has a new basis, which is that production profits are given back to all the workers, laborers and farmers, either as private income or in the form of various types of services.

It is true that the farmers, the salt of the earth, have suffered for a long time, but the revolution's action toward eliminating this suffering is a serious and sincere step toward ridding the farmers of all that they were afflicted with for so many years. The important thing, as always, is not only the good intentions but also the philosophy of the government, which promotes an alliance of all of our nation's working forces, and the aims of the revolution, which seek a society of plenty and of justice.

We are already very close to the beginning of the planting season for cotton, the Sudan's main crops, and the dangers of delaying it have been enumerated in announcements made by the minister of agriculture and by the Farmers' Unions. And the farmers themselves are aware of this.

There are destructive groups who do not even care whether or not the Sudanese economy completely collapses, because these groups are sick with a disease called lust for power, power which they want to obtain even at the cost of destroying the whole country. We have no doubt that the farmers, with their consciousness, are aware of the aims and goals of these groups and will not fall into their traps.

With complete confidence in the patriotism of the farmers in the al-Jazirah and al-Manaqil Project, we are expecting those of them who still are not working to quickly respond to the call to show their patriotism and start a season of planting, the crops of which we hope will yield an abundant profit for the farmers and their families.

And may God grant us prosperity.

Farmers Start Planting Cotton

Khartoum AL-SAHAFAH in Arabic 1 Aug 79 p 1

/Text/ Mr Muhammad 'Abd al-Zadir al-Mufti, the agricultural director of the al-Jazirah Project, has announced that the cotton planting situation has improved considerably, since the farmers have responded to their call to duty and toward their country. Yesterday there took place the planting of about 70,000 feddans, and this was the result of broad contacts made by the members of the Farmers' Executive and Central Committees. Mr Muhammad 'Abd al-Qadir said that the planting of the cotton took place in the following areas:

Al-Maturi--27,000 feddans; al-Jamusi--12,500 feddans; Ma'tuq--2,200 feddans; al-Tahamid--13,333 feddans; al-Huda--2,500 feddans; al-Makashfi--1,900 feddans; al-Shamali--6,000 feddans; and al-Shamali al-Gharbi--2,450 feddans.

The agricultural director of the al-Jazirah Project added that the Executive Bureau of the Farmers' Union, the day before yesterday, made an announcement and published a pamphlet, both of which effectively helped to persuade the farmers to go to work, and reports indicate that there has been a broad response to the Union's announcement.

Also, Mr al-Mufti mentioned that the al-Makashfi Sector's Production Council held an emergency meeting in order to evaluate the planting situation, and that the chief of the sector has sent a telegram, saying that the meeting ended with everyone in favor of ending the strike and immediately proceeding to plant the crop and making up for lost time.

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VERDICT IN CLANDESTINE AL-SHA'B CASE PROTESTED

Verdict Rendered

Tunis LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE in French 22 Aug 79 p 5

[Text] Yesterday the Correctional Court, Ghariani presiding, pronounced its verdict in the "Clandestine Al-Sha'b" case, in the absence of the accused. In fact, as soon as the session was opened the accused, 21 in all (those who were temporarily at liberty not in attendance), asked the court that "the trial be reheard in order to allow them to exercise their right to a defense." The president of the tribunal, after ordering them to be silent several times, ordered the police to remove them. After that he read the verdict.

Mohamed Larbi Ben Azzouz: 3 years in prison and 10 months for forming an unauthorized organization, propagation of false information, defamation of the regime, appropriation of wrecks, falsification of identification papers and possession of currency, and a fine of 650 dinars for publishing an unauthorized periodical.

Mohamed Jmour, Abdelhamid Amami, Mohamed Ben Hassine, Slaheddine Amami, Khaled Fellah, Moncef Ben Jabril Ben Ali, Mohamed Habib Rdissi, Zouheir Dhaoudi: 3 years in prison for forming an unauthorized organization, defamation of the regime, and propagation of false information, and a fine of 400 dinars for publishing an unauthorized periodical.

Mongi Makni, Abdelkrim Hssairi, Anas Chouaiekh, Jawher Fekih, Badreddine Jamoussi, Abdelwahab Maatar, Nejib Khenfir, Mohamed Habib Bouthelja, Nejib Hamza, Ali Amami, Mohamed Ben Jabril, Badreddine Smaoui, Mohamed Sioud, Ahmed Chouaiekh, Saïem Sriba, Ahmed Khaou, Mahfoudh Jenabri, Hassen Sioud, Abderrazak Hammami, Mohamed Boulila, Ali Sami, Habib Sassi, Abdelmjid Mlouka and Lamine Amami: 3 years in prison for belonging to an unauthorized organization, propagation of false information and defamation of the regime, and a fine of 400 dinars for publishing and circulating an unauthorized periodical.

Faouzi Chilani, Mohamed Jerraya, Youssef El Alaoui, Abdeljaber Maatar, Sami Charfi and Mohsen Bouchaala: 3 years in prison for belonging to an unauthorized organization, propagation of false information and defamation of the regime, and a fine of 100 dinars for circulation an unauthorized periodical.

They were also sentenced to a month in prison for illegal possession of weapons.

Youssef Khemili, Jellai Belhassine, Hedi Hermassi, Boubaker Mjeldi and Mouldi Mlah: 1 year in prison for belonging to an unauthorized organization.

Ridha Makni: 1 year and 3 months for belonging to an unauthorized organization and illegally crossing the borders.

Opposition Groups Denounce Severity

Paris LE MONDE in French 24 Aug 79 p 4

[Text] The Friends of Tunisia in Struggle (ATEL) (48, Rue de Montreuil, Paris--11th) and the Committee for Information and Defense of Victims of Repression in Tunisia (B.P. 397, 75028 Paris) held a joint press conference in Paris on Wednesday 22 August, devoted to the situation in Tunisia following the sentencing of the militant unionists implicated in the Al-Sha'b newspaper case (LE MONDE, 22 August). In support of their statements, the organizers of the press conference presented reports by two lawyers, Jean Lagadec and Michele Aussedat, who made official trips to Tunisia in July and August. The two lawyers represented the French Association of Democratic Jurists.

The ATEL spokesmen stated that the militant unionists' trial took place without their right of defense being respected (the lawyers even refused to plead under the conditions in which it took place), and without publication of the proceedings. The verdict was pronounced on Tuesday 21 August in the sole presence of the magistrates, and members of the accused's families who wanted to protest were brutally ejected from the building where the criminal court of Tunisia is headquartered. Some of them were arrested and will be tried on 28 August on the charge of having disrupted the proceedings.

The spokesman then stressed the severity of the prison farm sentences mixed with very heavy fines. In short, according to ATEL, one witnessed a "parody of justice." By publishing the AL-SHA'B newspaper, the militant unionists had wanted to continue the work of Habib Achour, leader of the UGTT [Tunisian General Federation of Labor], sentenced after the events of 26 January 1978 and recently pardoned. According to ATEL, his successor Tijani Habid is "considered a government tool and disliked by all of the Tunisian workers." Moreover, "the wall of silence has been broken" on the suspicious circumstances of militant Hamid Zellouz' death, which happened after he was arrested and interrogated in the offices of the DST [Directorate of Territorial Surveillance]. In short, ATEL demands the release of political prisoners, their number still estimated at around 150, and "a return to the exercise of political and union freedoms in Tunisia."

As for the Committee for Information and Defense of Victims of Repression in Tunisia, its spokesmen stated that this trial shows once more "the brutality

of the methods to which the Tunisian regime resorts," and proves that the regime, in spite of the pardons given to certain political prisoners, notably Habib Achour (LE MONDE, 4 August), "is in fact pursuing a repressive policy."

The Tunisian 26 January Collective (46, Rue de Vaugirard, Paris) for their part, had a communique sent to us in which it condemns a "justice enslaved by the government" and "calls attention to the fact that repression does not always take the spectacular form of a trial or the loss of young people who still fill the work camps of the civil service today."

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